MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

3 SEPTEMBER 1982

Reaction to Reagan Initiative

Israeli Cabinet Rejection; Officials Comment -- The Israeli Cabinet rejected the latest proposals by U.S. President Ronald Reagan as "gravely" deviating from and contradicting the Camp David accords, and possibly posing a "serious danger" to Israeli security. Reading the Cabinet statement over IDF radio, Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor outlined point by point the "contradictions" between the Camp David accords and the Reagan proposals. Issues in dispute included the status of Jerusalem, Palestinian control over their own security, a freeze in Israeli settlements in "Judaea, Samaria" and Gaza, the definition of full autonomy, ties with Jordan and the application of Israeli sovereignty over occupied territories. Although it acknowledged U.S. promises rejecting the establishment of a Palestinian state, the statement insisted that if the proposals were implemented such a state would be set up and be allied with the USSR in hostile cooperation with Arab states. The statement concluded that Israel is only prepared to renew autonomy talks based on "total loyalty" to the Camp David accords. Meridor added that ministers at the Cabinet meeting expressed "surprise and bitterness" over the U.S. attitude, because Israel was not the first to be consulted by the United States, as had been agreed upon in a 1973 memorandum, the radio said.

According to a Jerusalem radio report on the meeting, Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin spoke emotionally when he alleged that the Reagan "plan" is "worse" than the plan by former Secretary of State William Rogers, adding that anyone who adopts this new plan could be called a "traitor." Later, the radio said officials in Begin's office denied he used this term. Begin expressed anger that Jordan and Saudi Arabia were consulted by Reagan concerning the plan, and he was annoyed that U.S. officials lauded the U.S. forces' role in the evacuation without mentioning the IDF. Meanwhile, the radio reported that Begin sent a message to Reagan on the Cabinet decision.

Replying to the first message from President Reagan, Begin wrote that Israel "rejects outright" the proposals as "deviating" from Camp David, MA'ARIV revealed. The paper also said the second message Reagan sent to Begin was viewed in Jerusalem as an attempt to dissipate the "bitterness" created by the first message on new U.S. proposals.

On the evening of 2 September, Begin held talks conducted in a "correct atmosphere" with U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, ITIM reported, citing the prime minister's spokesman. Begin informed Weinberger that Israel will not negotiate with anyone on the new Reagan proposals but that the autonomy talks can begin immediately, based on Camp David, with all the agreed parties. Begin said Israel "took offense" that the United States failed to talk to Israel first before releasing the proposals. A Jerusalem radio report on the meeting revealed that Begin said this was one of the "saddest days" in his life.

Weinberger also met with Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon and toured "Judaea, Samaria" and military equipment manufacturing plants, Jerusalem radio reported. Interviewed on Jerusalem television, Sharon declared that security matters in the areas of "Judaea, Samaria" and Gaza are Israel's "exclusive responsibility."

In another Jerusalem television interview, Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres affirmed that he sees "positive things" in the Reagan proposals and that they can serve as a basis for further negotiations between the United States and Israel. Meanwhile, in an effort to coordinate an Israeli position, the Knesset will meet next week for debates, Jerusalem radio confirmed.

Arab World Optimism, Criticism -- A Jordanian Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by Amman television announced that Reagan's proposals are currently under study but that a preliminary reading of Reagan's speech indicates it contains a number of "positive factors." PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi said the implications of the new Reagan stand are "good," according to AFP. Jerusalem radio confirmed that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat had received a copy of the Reagan proposals and discussed them with PLO leaders. Monte Carlo radio, citing the Palestinian News Agency, said PLO Executive Committee members met to discuss the current situation. Reports by Damascus radio noted that the PFLP and Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine have rejected the proposals. Meanwhile, MENA reported that leading Egyptian papers have welcomed the Reagan initiative as a turning point, and Jerusalem radio revealed that the Egyptian ambassador in Israel pointed to the positive "trend" in the proposals. MENA also announced that the Egyptian president will hold a meeting on 4 September to discuss the issue, and that the Egyptian Cabinet will meet on 5 September. Syria reacted to the proposals in a Damascus radio report noting the Israeli Cabinet's rejection of the "so-called" U.S. peace plan. According to Riyadh radio, the Saudi minister of information confirmed that the new U.S. proposals have been received and are being studied. SPA observed that what is new in the proposals is only the call for autonomy with Jordanian participation and for the halt to Israeli settlements. A Mecca paper questioned whether the U.S. stand is a real effort or "another U.S. maneuver," SPA reported. Voice of Lebanon radio reports indicated that the Lebanese Embassy in Washington lauded the U.S. position, but that the Lebanese Government in Beirut had not yet received any official contact from the United States. The Tunisian foreign minister said the new proposals "obviously" represent progress, Tunis radio reported. According to an Algiers radio commentary, the latest U.S. proposals are not really new and are unlikely to reassure the Arabs.

Lebanon

Israeli Prime Minister Begin secretly met with Lebanese President-elect Bashir al-Jumayyil in Israel 2 nights ago, Jerusalem radio revealed on 3 September. The radio said the Israeli foreign and defense ministers also attended this meeting, which dealt with Lebanese political arrangements and ties with Israel. At a Lebanese Cabinet meeting on 2 September, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan announced that the Lebanese Army had taken up positions in west Beirut, the Voice of Lebanon reported. The radio said President Ilyas Sarkis spoke at the meeting and called for unity, sovereignty and support for Al-Jumayyil to achieve these aims.

Meanwhile, the radio affirmed that Israeli forces have withdrawn from the airport perimeter and southern suburbs of Beirut.

According to MA'ARIV, there are about 4,000 "terrorists" left in west Beirut, many of whom are ranking PLO members.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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FARUQ QADDUMI SAYS REAGAN PROPOSALS 'NEW, GOOD'

NC021842 Paris AFP in English 1830 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] Athens, Sept 2 (AFP) -- Faruq Qaddumi, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization Political Department, today expressed his approval of what he termed "new elements" in U.S. President Ronald Reagan's proposals on the Palestine issue.

Mr Qaddumi, who was with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat here today following the Palestinian evacuation of Beirut, was referring to Mr Reagan's [word indistinct] of Israeli sovereignty over the West Bank and Gaza and his call for a freeze on Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

"It's new, it's good," Mr Qaddumi said before meeting with Mr 'Arafat. He refused to answer questions from journalists and later left for Damascus.

Mr 'Arafat, likewise, avoided all contact with the press, remaining at a seaside hotel at Cavori, 25 km (15 miles) from here. The PLO chief, who arrived in Greece yesterday, divided his time between meetings with colleagues and resting.

Security appeared to be surprisingly scanty considering that Mr 'Arafat has just left west Beirut along with 10,000 of his PLO combatants.

Four members of the Tunisian Government were to arrive in here tomorrow to accompany Mr 'Arafat to Tunis, Greek Government spokesman Dimitris Maroudas said. He added that the PLO Executive Committee, which Mr 'Arafat heads, will hold a meeting tomorrow evening in the Tunisian capital.

PNC SECRETARY GENERAL VIEWS REAGAN SPEECH

NC021450 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1404 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] Cairo, 2 Sep (MENA) -- The secretary general of the Palestine National Council, Muhammad Subayh, has stated that the PLO is now carefully studying U.S. President Ronald Reagan's speech on a resolution of the Middle East problem. Subayh said: This speech represents a U.S. commitment to the total [Israeli] withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory. This places a responsibility on the U.S. administration to recognize the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people and the establishment of a Palestinian state. Subayh added that the PLO and Egypt are holding consultations in this regard.

DFLP, PFLP REJECT PRESIDENT REAGAN'S PLAN

JN030717 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 3 Sep 82

[Text] Damascus -- The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] yesterday announced their rejection of U.S. President Ronald Reagan's new plan.

A DFLP spokesman asserted: The U.S. plan does not guarantee our people's rights to determine their own destiny and to set up their independent state on the occupied Palestinian territories. The spokesman added: This plan comes amid destruction and massive genocide by Israel with the encouragement of the United States. Therefore, continued armed struggle alongside political campaigning will, in the long run, force the United States to recognize the national rights of the Palestinian people.

The PFLP statement affirms that the United States will continue to be the main enemy of the aspirations of our people and of the Arab nation. The PFLP spokesman pointed out that the U.S. President's proposals are considered a new maneuver to improve the U.S. image in the Arab region. The spokesman said: Our people will destroy all the plans that imperialism is trying to impose on them. The spokesman affirmed: The PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people. Our struggle will continue in all forms until all the usurped rights of the Palestinian people are regained.

NAYIF HAWATIMAH COMMENTS ON REAGAN PLAN

JN021754 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has announced that President Reagan's proposals do not suit the Palestinian people's interests.

PLO TO STUDY REAGAN SPEECH AT URGENT MEETING

JN021424 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] The Palestinian news agency says that this morning Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] met with the PLO Executive Committee members who arrived in Athens. During the meeting, the conferees studied the current situation and the PLO's moves during the coming stage. It was decided during this meeting to urgently call for a session of the PLO Executive Committee and all general secretaries within the next 48 hours in order to assess and study the situation and draw up the guidelines for the coming stage. The Palestinian stand during and after the Arab summit in Fes and President Reagan's speech on the Middle East will be studied during that session.

PLO CENTRAL COUNCIL 'MAY' CONVENE IN TUNIS

NC011018 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 1 Sep 82

[Text] A Palestinian source in Nicosia today confirmed that the PLO Central Council may convene in Tunis before the Fes Arab summit conference to discuss the stand regarding the summit agenda and to review the current situation following the war in Lebanon and the departure of Palestinian fighters from Beirut.

'ARAFAT VISITS GREECE, MEETS WITH OFFICIALS

For further coverage of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Greece, including Greek media and AFP reportage, see the 1 September and subsequent issues of the Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

BAHRAIN

AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ REACTS TO REAGAN SPEECH

GF022056 Manama AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 2 Sep 82 pp 1, 4

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] We seem to be approaching a period of further chaos and distraction in order to delay any possible recovery of our Arab nation from the horrible shock inflicted during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. This period is also aimed at obstructing any action designed to reunify Arab ranks.

A few days before the Arab summit, President Reagan remembered the West Bank -- which was occupied 15 years ago and where the Israeli settlements have spread like an epidemic -- and now demands that the Israeli enemy not withdraw but kindly halt the erection of additional settlements. Reagan might have felt that the enemy's announcement of the annexation of the West Bank in order to reap the fruits of its aggression against Lebanon and its ejection of the PLO from Beirut was approaching.

Is Reagan's modest demand enough to take a step in the direction of solving any of the problems prevailing in the Middle East? Certainly not. However, it is enough to distract attention. When the Zionist entity objects to Reagan's demand and resorts to weeping at the wall of Camp David, voices ring out indicating that there are differences between the United States and the enemy, that Washington at last realizes the importance of its interests in the Arab world and that it is all right to postpone the Arab resolutions for a short time until the depth of these disagreements and their effect on the U.S. position become clear.

Therefore, the illusion -- with which we have lived for many years -- that the United States will eventually recognize our legitimate rights will be renewed. We will also forget the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories, the enemy's infiltration of our lines, its continued Judaization of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in addition to the suppression of our proud people. The enemy continues to perpetuate its plans. It continues to receive U.S. weapons, aid and donations which make it more powerful, covetous and ferocious at a time when we fall asleep over various disagreements and wake up to disasters more severe than what happened in Lebanon.

The best we can do about this new U.S.-Israeli drama is ignore it. Let the Arab summit conference be held and let it try to unify ranks in order to confront the next maneuvers, to try to recover what we have lost and to prevent further losses. We have had enough deception during the past years that have caused us to lose our correct vision of events.

KUWAIT

'POLITICAL SOURCES' ON U.S. POLITICAL STAND

GF021910 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 2 Sep 82 p 3

[Text] Political sources in Kuwait have welcomed with reservations the new development in the U.S. position toward the Middle East which was contained in President Reagan's message to the prime minister of the Israeli enemy, Menahem Begin.

The sources emphasized that the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the PLO, have the sole right to deal with the new U.S. position.

Moreover, the Palestinians are the most capable of assessing the new U.S. step, taking into consideration the fact that Reagan's message constitutes the beginning of a change in the U.S. Government's position toward the Middle East issue. It is a good initiative regarding the nature of the resolution for the area, which should be based on a just solution of the Palestinian issue and on ensuring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, whether this be in self-determination or establishment of their independent Palestinian state and preservation of their Palestinian identity.

The Kuwaiti political sources view the U.S. President's message to Begin as being special since it includes a clear request for Israel to withdraw from the West Bank and refrain from erecting new Jewish settlements there in order to establish a Palestinian entity linked with Jordan.

Some of the political observers pointed out that Reagan's message to Begin shocked Israel and made Begin interrupt his holiday and call for an urgent Cabinet meeting. The observers expect that Israel will be obliged to make concessions in light of the U.S. demands in order to avert a confrontation with the Reagan administration that could bring bad results at a time when Israel has nobody to count on in the international arena except for the United States because its nature has been unveiled to international public opinion and its savage face has been seen through the military operations it perpetrated during its invasion of Lebanon.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM ON AIM OF REAGAN SPEECH

LD021124 Kuwait KUNA in English 1030 GMT 2 Sep 82

[From the press review]

[Text] Kuwait, Sept 2 (KUNA) -- Extracts from Kuwaiti newspaper editorials Thursday:

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM on the American solution to the Palestinian problem:

"It has been a customary practice for the American sources to reveal at night some of the American stances regarding the Middle East region then to have an official statement at day time denying all that has been revealed. The American administration is used to eating its words especially when they relate to the expansionist ambitions of the Zionist entity or the active process of Judaization being carried out in the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan.

"Reports indicate that the American administration expressed uneasiness and anger over the leakage of the broad lines of its new policy in the Middle East prior to their official announcement. This American-Israeli series of angry action-reactions is continuing these days. Israeli Minister Yuval Ne'eman expressed anger and concern, and demanded a prompt implementation of the Judaization schemes in the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan to obstruct the course of any attempt to amend the Camp David accords. This is a plan fur pushing and advancing forward being prepared by Tel Aviv.

"Between this American and Israeli angry actions-reactions things are lost. That is why, despite (Reagan's) new ideas and his speech on the Middle East, described by press reports as significant, we believe that the Israeli interests will remain a top American priority and interest and that the American conscience will not wake up easily despite massacres already committed by the Israeli forces in Lebanon.

"The extensive American talk on the American role in solving the Palestinian problem is a "trial balloon" set by the American administration prior to the forthcoming Arab summit meeting and is meant to cause disturbances inside the conference.

All past statements stressed that the Palestinian problem will be solved in the framework of the autonomy as mentioned in the Camp David accords and according to the Israeli plan. This was voiced by the master of the White House himself.

"As such Arab leaders have to immediately act to save time and reach an appropriate solution to the Palestinian problem with the aid of the European and friendly peoples and governments so as not to allow all cards to remain in the American hands and the Arabs' role outside the solution framework".

OMAN

FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNS FROM MOROCCO 1 SEP

GF021430 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Excerpt] Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned home yesterday from Rabat after participating in the Arab foreign ministers meeting that was held in Mohammedia on 28-31 August.

SAUDI ARABIA

MEDIA VIEW REAGAN 1 SEPTEMBER PROPOSALS

Riyadh Radio

LD021348 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] Political observers in London today confirmed that the Arab peace plan submitted by the kingdom and announced by His Majesty King Fahd last year continues to be a comprehensive and direct formulation for the guarantee of peace in the region on just foundations, which include the UN efforts and the aspirations of the Palestinian people for an independent state in their occupied land through their legitimate representative, the PLO.

Observers reconfirmed this opinion after news agency reports of so-called new proposals the American President made last night. The reports agreed that the American President's ideas were nothing more than a repetition of the idea of the so-called autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This makes it unjust to try to impose the Camp David agreements on the Arabs, in particular at this time.

At any rate, what is new in the American President's ideas is confined to linking the issue of autonomy to Jordan, and his request that Tel Aviv halt the expansion of settlements in the occupied Arab lands.

The issue which those who are interested in the peace process in the region must comprehend is that instability in the Middle East is greatly linked with the need for a just and direct resolution of the Palestine problem through an acceptance of the legitimate demands of the Palestinian people, especially the right of the PLO to participate in any talks concerning this problem.

There is no doubt that the strength and comprehensive nature of the Arab peace plan confirms that it is the best formulation for a comprehensive peaceful settlement of the conflict in the Middle East. Naturally, any other formulation aimed at removing international involvement in the situation in the region will not bring any positive influences. Just international involvement in the problem, especially by those linked with the conflict in the region, is imperative.

The reevaluation of policy dealing with the Middle East crisis represents a logical start to any efforts aimed at the achievement of peace. If this means the superpowers in general, it concerns the United States, which can be relied upon to play a major role in the peace process, one which should be different in content and form from the Camp David peace rejected by the Arabs before the Palestinians.

AL-JAZIRAH, 'UKAZ

LD030936 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0500 GMT 3 Sep 82

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 3 Sep (SPA) -- The kingdom's papers today showed interest in the plan announced yesterday by American President Ronald Reagan for the establishment of peace in the Middle East.

AL-JAZIRAH said that Reagaon's frank ideas about the Palestinian problem crystallize a new American stand (?never expressed by any previous) American stand regarding this conflict. However, it is too early to evaluate these ideas or analyze the new American stand.

It added that the reaching of an accurate Arab evaluation of Reagan's ideas requires the Arab leaders at the Fes summit to first make a more accurate evaluation and a deeper analysis of the current Arab situation, which has reached an extremely very serious stage of division, weakness, impotence and neglect. If the Arab leaders at the Fes summit succeed in restoring solidarity amongst themselves and in perpetuating harmony and in agreeing on a unified stand and one one decision with the utilization of all their potentials and their financial, economic, political, military and manpower resources, the Arab force required for the joint action to serve the Palestinian cause would be ready and at the highest degree of alertness to move on every regional and international level.

AL-JAZIRAH stressed that the fate of the Palestinian issue depends entirely on the Arab leaders in Fes after the PLO performed an extremely important role in persuading certain international leaders, chiefly President Reagan, that the Palestinian issue is the essence of the Middle East dispute, thanks to the heroic military steadfastness in the face of the Israeli military onslaught on west Beirut.

'UKAZ noted that President Reagan's speech presenting the initiative comes at this specific time following the PLO departure from Lebanon and only a few days before the meeting of the Fes summit; that is, the forthcoming Arab summit will have before it new American proposals which should be studied in depth so that the positive and negative aspects contained in these ideas with regard to the future of peace in the region can be determined.

The paper pointed out that the U.S. President's ideas show a tangible shift in the American stand. This is the first time Washington has spoken of the possibility of PLO representatives participating in the peace negotiations. It is also the first time Washington has considered the Palestinian issue as an issue of a people dispersed from their homeland and not merely as a refugee issue.

In conclusion, 'UKAZ said the timing of the presentation of the American plan obviously requires the Fes summit to adopt a decisive and clear decision in this connection. If the American plan is not adequate to achieve the aspirations of the Arabs for a settlement of the region's crisis, then it must be prepared to present an Arab alternative that would enjoy the agreement of all Arab parties and crystallize clear ideas for that settlement.

UAE

AL-WAHDAH ON PRESIDENT REAGAN'S MESSAGE TO BEGIN

GF021656 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0640 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 Sep (WAM) -- AL-WAHDAH's editorial affirmed that the United States will remain committed to the Zionist plans which are aimed at occupying Arab lands and forcing the Arabs to submit to the will of Zionism.

The newspaper commented in this way on the message sent by U.S. President Reagan to the Israeli enemy's Prime Minister Menahem Begin in which he called on him not to establish any new settlements in the West Bank so that it remains close to Jordan; thus, a Palestinian entity can be established there in the future.

The paper said: We do not trust anything Reagan and his administration say because there are many indications that Reagan is completely biased toward the Zionist enemy and because he acted against the international society and against the will of all the honest people in the world when they denounced Israel's actions in Lebanon and demanded its withdrawal.

The newspaper noted that if President Reagan were truthful in his intentions, he would have stood firmly in the face of Sharon's mad and barbaric practices in Lebanon; thus, he would have brightened the American page after its black marks following the events in Lebanon.

In its editorial entitled "How Can We Believe Reagan's Intentions?", AL-WAHDAH added that the United States is Israel and that Israel's will, which is in fact always dominating, is not much different than that of the United States. This Israeli will will be dominating as long as Israel remains a force that threatens the Arabs, prevents their progress and unity and serves U.S. interests in the Arab world.

The editorial concluded that the contents of President Reagan's message to the enemy's prime minister is not a few development. As a matter of fact, the message was [words indistinct] to points that were included in it — points that led to As-Sadat's visit, the Camp David accords and to normalization.

PDRY

'ALI NASIR MUHAMMAD ISSUES COMMITTEE STATEMENT

GF030524 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Sep 82

["Text" of press statement issued by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, YSP Central Committee secretary general, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and chairman of the Council of Ministers, following the conclusion of the 12th session of the YSP Central Committee held 28 Aug-1 Sep]

[Excerpt] The Supreme People's Council held its 12th session from 31 August to 1 September. It examined several political and economic issues, in addition to issues related to strengthening the Supreme People's Council and the government.

In reviewing the political developments in the Arab region resulting from the Zionist invasion of Lebanon, the council affirmed the government's stand and its political moves on various levels, and also affirmed our consistent stand on the Palestinian Revolution in confronting the challanges and hostile designs that are aimed at liquidating the just cause of the Arab Palestinian people. In this regard, the council saluted the participation of the Yemeni volunteers who were alongside their brothers in the joint Palestinian and Lebanese forces in confronting the tyrannical Israeli aggression against Lebanon, which was a demonstration of the Yemeni people's will to defend national and liberation issues. The council saluted the steadfastness of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples in the face of the barbaric Zionist military attack, which was supported by the United States, a nation which daily unveils its rabid aggression against the interests and desires of the Arab people.

The council lauded the Yemeni initiative taken by the presidents of the two parts of Yemen to mobilize Arab efforts to deter the barbaric Zionist aggression against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. The council expressed satisfaction with the efforts made by the leadership of the two parts of Yemen in terms of coordination and consultation and the implementation of unity agreements, affirming the importance of resuming those efforts and the significance of the unity meetings of the Yemeni Coordination Council, the Secretariat of the council and the joint ministerial council, in order to restore the unity of the Yemeni people on peaceful and democratic bases.

Regarding the situation in the neighboring region, the council expressed its satisfaction with the recent diplomatic activities of the government with fraternal countries aimed at staving off the threats of the imperialist military presence and providing suitable circumstances for stability in the region on the bases of peaceful coexistence, mutual respect for sovereignty and fruitful cooperation. Reviewing relations between the PDRY and the socialist countries, the council highly assessed the development and deepening of these relations and hailed the sincere aid that was offered by the socialist countries, led by the Soviet Union, to our country. The council also hailed the Soviet stance in support of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples during the Zionist aggression against Lebanon.

During this session the council examined the assessment report of the first year -- 1981 -- of the 5-year plan, a memorandum on amending the investment employments plan of the second year -- 1982 -- of the 5-year plan, and the draft law of the 5-year plan. The council expressed its appreciation for the accomplishments made under the first year of the plan and which were characterized by the remarkable progress of the total social production at a rate of 90 percent of the plan. The council called on all workers and toilers of our country to exert utmost efforts to accomplish the goals of the 5-year plan's second year in a way that will increase the production and income rates and subsequently ensure a better standard of economic and social progress for the country.

Regarding the enforcement of legitimacy and law, the council assessed the legal discrepancies and stressed the need of the lawful protection organs to familiarize themselves with these discrepencies and take the necessary measures to put an end to them by securing stability for all citizens and by taking a productive approach to the enforcement of law and the prevailing systems. Furthermore, the council discussed a number of draft laws and unanimously approved the compulsory insurance law, the postal saving law, and the law amending the customs tariff law. The council also discussed a number of agreements, among which were the loan agreement on the third educational plan between our country and the international development organization which is aimed at improving the technical and occupational educational system and the training of teachers on the means and methods of modern education, before and during service, the loan agreement with the Arab fund for economic and social development to finance potable water projects in rural areas, the loan agreement with the International Development Fund to finance (Mashtum) port [word indistinct]. The council also approved commercial agreements between our country and the USSR, CSSR and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Regarding the enhancement of the council's permanent committees' activities, the council approved expansion of the membership of its permanent committees. During this session the council elected Brother Brig Gen 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, as a member of the Supreme People's Council Presidium.

The council also elected 'Ali 'Abd ar-Razzaq Badi, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, as chairman of the State Information Committee; Brother Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali, as foreign minister; Brother 'Ali Salim ad-Dib, as minister of local government; and Brother Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, as minister of fish resources.

During an exceptional session of the presidium, Brother Brig Gen 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar was elected as deputy chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium.

PFLO SENDS CONGRATULATIONS TO AL-QADHDHAFI

GF021636 Aden Voice of PFLO in Arabic 1545 GMT 1 Sep 82

[Text of PFLO Executive Committee congratulatory cable sent to Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on the 1 September Revolution anniversary]

[Text] Brother struggler Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution:

In the name of the PFLO Central Committee, in the name of all the PFLO combatants and in the name of our struggling Omani people, we are pleased to express our sincerest brotherly wishes to you, to the RCC members and to the fraternal Libyan people on the 13th anniversary of the Great 1 September Revolution. This revolution destroyed forever one of the strongholds of Arab reactionary [regimes] and erected on its ruins a powerful revolution which had, as it still has, a huge effect on the development and progress of the Arab revolution together with its progressive national unionist horizons. This opened the way for the Libyan Arab masses to achieve creativity and continuous development which led to a continuous series of revolutionary achievements in all political, economic, military and social fields. These achievements were crowned with democratic changes which were reflected in the holding of popular conferences to implement the slogan of having the authority, resources and weapons in the hands of the people.

The achievements of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah are not only regarded as a victory to all the factions of the Arab revolution but also as a victory for the international revolution movement, where the Jamahiriyah has come to serve as an example. This has been confirmed by many of the international conferences that have been held in the Jamahiriyah.

Brother struggler Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, your celebrations this year coincide with the worst and hardest conditions our Arab nation has experienced as a result of the U.S.-Zionist aggression against Lebanon which tried to liquidate the Palestinian Revolution and Lebanese National Movement.

The crimes committed against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples -- in light of the effete Arab position in general and the conspiratorial stance shown by some reactionary Arab regimes -- are regarded as a blemish in the history of these conspiring regimes.

Moreover, the heroic epic fight waged by the Palestinian and Lebanese national children through their defense of Beirut is regarded as one of the most marvellous and noble events in Arab history. The experience in Lebanon must teach Arab revolutinaries that the bullets must first be aimed at the breasts of the treacherous Arabs who backstabbed the Palestinian Revolution and the Arab liberation movement by allying themselves with U.S. imperialism and the Zionist enemy.

The agent Muscat regime is foremost among these treacherous regimes that have allied themselves with U.S. imperialism and opened the tertitory of Oman to U.S. bases and armies that are allied with the Zionist enemy against the Arab nation.

The Muscat regime has not been satisfied with this filthy role and has crowned its treacherous role by supporting the agent Bashir al-Jumayyil, who has been forced on the Lebanese people by Zionist weapons.

Brother struggler Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the grave situation our Arab nations experiences entails a serious, alert and sincere revolutionary stance in order to learn from experience and to formulate sound plans to confront the great challenges to which the Arab revolution movement is subjected from the Arab Gulf to the Atlantic Ocean.

Brother struggler, we sincerely congratulate you on the 13th anniversary of the Great 1 September Revolution. We also wish the fraternal Libyan people further progress and success. In this historic anniversary we would like to express the support of the PFLO and our people for your honorary national stand toward the struggle of our people and your continuous support support for its revolution.

Best revolutionary regards,

[Signed] Your brothers, the PFLO Executive Committee

YAR

PERMANENT COMMITTEE MEETS, CANCELS CELEBRATIONS

GF021700 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Aug 82

[Excerpts] The Permanent Committee of the General People's Congress held its first meeting today under the chairmanship of Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the armed forces, the secretary general of the General People's Congress and head of the Permanent Committee of the congress.

The committee discussed the general Arab situation and developments in the Palestinian issue in addition to the arrangements undertaken for the YAR leadership, government and people's reception of the Palestinian combatants who showed steadfastness against the ferocious invasion of the Lebanese Republic. Out of solidarity with the Palestinian and Lebanese people -- who were subjected to this ferocious aggression and faced the most dangerous and most sophisticated means of killing and destruction -- and out of sincere appreciation for the Palestinian Revolution and out of respect for the Lebanese, Palestinian Yemenis and other Arab martyrs in Lebanon, the Permament Committee of the General People's Congress decided to cancel this year all forms of jubilation and celebration, in the YAR and abroad, which are due to be held on the 20th anniversary of the immortal 26 September Revolution and allocate the costs of the celebrations to the Palestinian issue. The meeting lasted 2 and 1/2 hours.

MUBARAK TO DISCUSS REAGAN INITIATIVE WITH AIDES

NC021317 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] Cairo, 2 Sep (MENA) -- MENA has learned that President Husni Mubarak will meet with the political group on Saturday to discuss U.S. President Ronald Reagan's initiative for the Middle East. MENA has also learned the Cabinet will hold a special session this Sunday under Prime MInister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din to discuss this initiative.

CAIRO PAPERS ON REAGAN INITIATIVE, ARAB STAND

NC022254 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2205 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] Cairo, 2 Sep (MENA) -- In their Friday editions, AL-AKHBAR and AL-JUMHURIYAH welcome U.S. President Ronald Reagan's initiative to settle the Palestinian question, and they demand a unified Arab stand to implement its positive aspects.

In an editorial entitled "The Motives Behind the U.S. Initiative," AL-AKHBAR says: President Reagan's initiative is an important turning point in U.S. Middle East policy. It is no less important than the initiative of the late U.S. President Eisenhower during the Suez war, which compelled Israel to withdraw from all of Sinai.

The paper adds: The pressuring Zionist forces will seek, or rather they have begun attempting, to contain the brave initiative and abort it. This requires a unified Arab stand to implement all positive aspects of the U.S. initiative in order that it may become the strategy of U.S. Middle East policy.

AL-AKHBAR continues: The initiative might not represent all Arab ambitions to establish a comprehensive peace in the Middle East and it might not realize for us all the rights we demand. However, it is an initiative [word indistinct] by the principal ally of Israel. Therefore, it is demanded that all Arab states objectively study the U.S. initiative objectively, express an opinion on it and exploit it in the interests of the Arab struggle and Palestinian rights without any outbiddings and disagreements.

In its editorial, AL-AKHBAR demands that the conferees at the Arab summit, which is scheduled to convene in Fes this Monday, rise above disagreements and outbiddings and agree on a unified view on the U.S. initiative committing all Arab states.

In conclusion, AL-AKHBAR stressed that the U.S. initiative is the fruit of the Palestinian blood that flowed profusely in west Beirut and southern Lebanon, the fruit of the Palestinian steadfastness over past years and the fruit of the political struggle Egypt has waged since the beginning of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and until the announcement of the U.S. initiative.

AL-JUMHURIYAH expresses its belief that the announcement of the U.S. initiative at this particular time, without entering into its details, expresses the existence of several facts that govern the Middle East region. The first fact is that, after what has happened in Lebanon, the Palestinian problem is no longer a cold issue that rouses no interest.

The paper stresses that the distribution of the PLO fighters among a number of Arab states does not mean the liquidation or annulment of the existence of the Palestinian people. It says the Palestinian question is the core of the Middle East problem and any other considerations are marginal.

AL-JUMHURIYAH then says: Another fact is that the United States, which is considered a full partner in the peace process, must have an effective role in the realization of the peace process and in giving it momentum. It points out that even if there is a special relationship between the United States and Israel, the Arabs must not always pay the price for this relationship.

In conclusion, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: Another fact is that it has become necessary for the Arabs to get rid of the negative aspect that has long characterized the Arab role. It demands that the Arabs exploit any available positive factors to attain Arab rights.

CAIRO RADIO NOTES REAGAN'S PROGRAM FOR MIDEAST

NC021231 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Violet Fu'ad commentary]

[Text] The statement U.S. President Reagan made on television early this morning indicates U.S. efforts to devise a political framework for the forthcoming steps the United States intends to take to establish a just and permanent peace in the Middle East. The most salient points in the statement are President Reagan's emphasis of his opposition to Israel's annexing or extending full control over the occupied Arab territory, despite the fact that the present Israeli rulers say these territories are part of greater Israel. President Reagan also stressed that the Camp David accords to establish peace in the Middle East are still the basis of U.S. policy for the area and that autonomy for the Palestinians is defined in these accords.

The key stages of the U.S. plan can be summed up in several points: First, the prompt freezing of any new settlements in the West Bank and Gaza; second, holding free elections to establish an independent Palestinian authority in the occupied territory; third, the handing over of internal authority by the Israeli Government to the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza during a 5-year transitional period. Full autonomy with participation by Jordan would be the final status of these territories. The U.S. plan also includes holding negotiations over Jerusalem, including the eastern part of the city, in order to define the future of the city through negotiations.

AL-AHRAM DENOUNCES SHARON, BEGIN 3 SEPTEMBER

NC030754 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0632 GMT 3 Sep 82

[Text] Cairo, 3 Sep (MENA) -- The newspaper AL-AHRAM has attacked Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon and described him as "the king of ruination and devastation." In today's editorial, the paper says that throughout history, the world has suffered greatly from a group of leaders who brought ruination and devastation upon their peoples and countries or upon the nations and countries surrounding them. These leaders did not stop this bloody tendency until it finally turned against them. The world recalls Genghis Khan, Hulagu and Hitler, as it will certainly remember Begin and Sharon in the late 20th century.

AL-AHRAM says that since a terrorist upbringing leaves a profound imprint like a deep scar and forces such a man to practice every now and then -- however his life is changed -- according to what is known as the compulsion of repetition or obligatory behavior, mankind should not tolerate the policies of such men. There must be some controls to keep them within limits and there must be deterrents to stave off their evil; deterrents to be undertaken by international organizations or collectively responsible governments to awaken the peoples of these leaders to the perils posed by their policies to the people's own existence so they may get rid of them and bring them down.

AL-AHRAM continues by saying that Sharon, for example, who is given the name of a king, is a king of ruination and devastation, because the arrogance of force and conceit of power prompted him to play God. He is the one who killed part of the Resistance and let another part live, but he is lying in wait for it. The paper points to Sharon's statement to Italian journalist Oriana Falacci in which he said: They are alive because I preferred to leave them so, but this is not guaranteed in the future. Woe to them if they dare resume their bloody activities even in countries far away from Israel. AL-AHRAM says, isn't this the megalomania that results from bloodshed in the absence of international responsibility?

'ALI, SASON MEET, DISCUSS LEBANON, DETAINEES

PM021611 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 1 Sep 82 p 1

[Unattributed report: "'Ali Tells Israeli Ambassador: Israeli Presence in Lebanon Hinders Peace"]

[Text] During his meeting yesterday with Israel's ambassador in Cairo, Moshe Sason, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said Egypt considers the Israeli presence in Lebanon to be a serious obstacle to the resumption of the peace process, and that Israel's policy in the West Bank and Gaza is also an obstacle preventing progress on the road to peace.

The Israeli ambassador had asked for this meeting with Kamal Hasan 'Ali to inform him that, in response to Egypt's request, the Israeli Government has issued urgent instructions to speed up the release of all Egyptians captured in southern Lebanon during the recent events.

GHAZALAH RETURNS TO CAIRO FROM KHARTOUM

NC021638 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1603 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] Cairo, 2 Sep (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Defense and War Production Minister Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah returned to Cairo from Khartoum this afternoon following a several-hour visit to Sudan.

Marshal Abu Ghazalah had left Cairo for Khartoum at 0800 today. In Khartoum, he met with Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri.

BAGHDAD REPORTS REACTIONS TO REAGAN PLAN

JN030844 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0300 GMT 3 Sep 82

[Text] Reactions have differed on the proposals made by U.S. President Ronald Reagan concerning the situation in the Arab region and the Palestinian question. In an emergency session held yesterday, the Zionist enemy's government rejected the U.S. President's proposals, saying they deviated from the Camp David accords.

David Levi, Zionist minister of housing and Menahem Begin's deputy, has said his entity will continue the establishment of Zionist settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. Levi denounced Reagan's call for a freeze on such settlements in the occupied territories.

The PLO has called an emergency meeting of its Executive Committee to take place in the next few hours to discuss the American proposals. Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, expressed the belief that the U.S. proposals contain positive elements, especially regarding the freeze on the Zionist settlements in the West Bank and Gaza and the nonimposition of Zionist sovereignty over the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

In Amman, an official Foreign Ministry spokesman announced last night that the competent quarters in Jordan are currently studying President Reagan's proposals. The spokesman said Jordan will hold consultations on the subject with the PLO and Arab governments on the basis of Jordan's commitment to the 1974 Rabat summit resolutions.

In Jidda, SPA quoted Saudi Information Minister Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani as saying that Saudi Arabia had indeed received the U.S. proposals. SPA said the U.S. proposals are being studied and that Saudi Arabia will announce its stand after this study.

In Washington, Secretary of State George Shultz said that Israel interprets autonomy as subject to its security, while President Reagan is asking that the autonomy be comprehensive -- that is, covering people, land and security. In an interview with the ABC television network, Shultz said the United States will reject Palestinian representatives who are appointed under Israeli pressure.

In Bonn, German political circles expressed their satisfaction over the U.S. proposals and called on the EEC to study them as soon as possible.

In Paris, no official comment on the proposals has been made yet. However, French Foreign Ministry sources said they intend to make a thorough study and analysis of the proposals before commenting.

HUSAYN VISITS CENTRAL SECTOR OF BATTLEFIELD

JN021704 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Sep (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn today visited the central sector of the battlefield and listened to a detailed briefing on the military operations and the fighters' high combat capability by the commander and staff officers of the II Army Corps.

The president was accurately briefed on the arrangements made by the II Army Corps there for all the divisions confronting the expansionist Iranian aggression. All these arrangements give us pride in our great army's capability of confronting aggression and our fighters splendid standard and high spirit on all levels.

In a note in the visitors' book of the II Army Corps, President Saddam Husayn expressed his appreciation as well as that of the leadership and people for the valor and high discipline of the corps' personnel in defending the homeland and people.

MEMO SENT TO UN ON PENDING IRANIAN ATTACK

JN022041 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] INA has learned that Iraq has sent a memorandum to the UN Security Council president and the UN secretary general indicating that the Iranian regime has massed its military forces on the international border between Iraq and Iran in a desperate attempt to invade Iraq.

The memorandum, which Iraq asked to be distributed among the member states of the UN Security Council and General Assembly as an official document, stressed that any such attempt will have the same fate as the five offensives launched against Iraq by the Iranian regime last month, in which the Iranian Armed Forces suffered massive losses in life and equipment.

The memorandum also pointed out that it is well-known that the Iranian Government has foiled international efforts to settle the conflict peacefully and has refused to abide by UN Security Council Resolutions 479 of 1980 and 514 of 1982 that called for peace. Iran continues to violate its commitments as dictated by the international charter and law. The memorandum stressed Iraq's determination to continue its peace efforts and at the same time to continue exercising its right to legitimately defend itself against aggression and expansion.

The memorandum pointed out that, in light of the Iranian regime's continued violation of its international commitments, the United Nations is required, more than at any time before, to work in the interest of international peace and security by ending the policy of aggression and expansion being practiced by the Iranian regime.

ARMED FORCES COMMAND ISSUES COMMUNIQUE NO 829

JN021548 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1535 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Sep (INA) -- A military communique by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command has put Iranian enemy losses of yesterday evening and today at 27 killed and 1 tank, 1 gun and 3 stockpiles of hardware destroyed in the operational theater. It added that today the Iranian enemy shelled the city of Basra, causing some damage. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 829 issued by the Armed Forces General Command.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The glorious forces of Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah continued their activities against the vicious Iranian enemy in the operational sectors yesterday evening and today strongly, bravely and audaciously. The results were as follows:

1. An enemy concentration was sighted opposite our positions in the area east of Basra. Our forces opened fire on it, killing 27 and destroying 1 tank, 1 gun and 2 hardware stockpiles.

2. One hardware stockpile was destroyed in the central sector of the battlefield.

3. The racist Iranian enemy shelled the city of Basra today, causing some damage.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 2 September 1982

FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN VIEWS REAGAN SPEECH

JN021824 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1806 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Amman today said the competent Jordanian authorities are currently studying the principles and proposals in U.S. President Reagan's speech to resolve the Middle East crisis preparatory to discussing these proposals and principles with the PLO and Arab governments. This stand stems from Jordan's commitment which is based on the 1974 Rabat summit resolutions. Preliminary reading of the speech shows that it contains a number of positive factors worthy of discussion and consultation with other Arab parties, particularly because the speech included an affirmation of the principle of the inadmissibility of the occupation of territory by force and the need for Israel's withdrawal from occupied Arab territories in return for peace.

SOVIET ROVING AMBASSADOR TO VISIT 3 SEPTEMBER

LD021448 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1417 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] Amman, 2 Sep (KUNA) -- An official source said here today that a Soviet envoy, the roving ambassador at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, is due in Amman tomorrow. The source told KUNA that the Soviet envoy will conduct talks with senior officials on the latest developments in the Middle East situation and on bilateral relations.

The Soviet envoy's visit to the region comes while U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger is visiting Lebanon, Israel and Egypt. The source did not say whether the Soviet envoy would visit other Arab countries after visiting Jordan.

The Jordanian monarch, King Husayn, visited Moscow last June. This was followed by a Jordanian military delegation's visit to the Soviet Union.

SPOKESMAN REACTS FAVORABLY TO REAGAN PROPOSALS

NC021157 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] A spokesman for the Lebanese Embassy in Washington has announced that the proposals of the U.S. President definitely contain extremely positive points. However, these points require comprehensive study.

SARKIS APPEALS FOR COOPERATION, LEBANESE UNITY

NC021509 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] Immediately after the Cabinet meeting ended at 1415 today, the following official information was distributed:

At the beginning of the session, His Excellency President of the Republic [Ilyas Sarkis] said: This is the first session the Cabinet held after the election of a new president of the republic. On this occasion I want to affirm that what we need most today is unity in opinion, ranks and the reconciliation of all Lebanese, especially now that we will have a new president, whom we wish success. President Sarkis added: The events have proved that adherence to legitimacy is the strongest weapon. Our unwavering commitment to legitimacy derives from this, because a unified Lebanon cannot exist without legitimacy, which must assume its natural role and impose the sovereignty of the state over all Lebanon.

President Sarkis added: We are filled today with a new hope that the legitimacy will resume exercising its leadership so we may maintain a united and unified Lebanon. I am confident we will achieve what we have always sought to achieve -- the strengthening of three pillars on which Lebanon is built: legitimacy, the Lebanese democratic system and national unity, which are embodied in the unity of the territory, the people and the institution.

His Excellency President Sarkis has appealed to all Lebanese to derive inspiration from these pillars now that a new presidency is beginning, because the conditions Lebanon are undergoing make it mandatory that all Lebanese cooperate and unite.

AL-WAZZAN: 'WE ARE TURNING OVER NEW LEAF'

NC021041 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Excerpts] At 0900 today, Prime Minister Sahfiq al-Wazzan, accompanied by Ministers Marwan Hamadah and Khalid Junblatt, proceeded from his residence in Al-Basta amid strong security measures to Al-Istiqlal Road, where Mustafa at-Turk presented a bouquet of flowers to the prime minister. A bulldozer belonging to the Civil Defense Department immediately started clearing the earthen barrier and reopened the road to An-Nasirah along the Sodeco Road. Prime Minister al-Wazzan and his entourage continued on foot through Shaykh Bisharah al-Khuri Street while the citizens cheered for Lebanon and its unity and for the restoration of legitimacy in the country. All along the road up to the An-Nasirah [gas] station, the masses showered the entourage with rice. On his arrival there, the citizens rushed toward Al-Wazzan, embracing him and cheering the unity of Lebanon.

Addressing the citizens, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said: I really do not know what to say. I am overwhelmed with emotion and I tremble with happiness on this glorious day. I say it is a glorious day because it is the day of Lebanese unity -- the unity of all Lebanese -- as we do away with the idea of an east and west Beirut. As of today there will be only one Beirut.

We are turning over a new leaf on which we want to write with our will as Lebanese -- all Lebanese -- that we graduated from the same school of one will, from the school of tragedy and from the school of struggle for the sake of justice and for the homeland so we may all and everywhere turn to reconstructing our homeland on new bases. We will all unite in love to liberate the homeland from all residues and from all complexes and from an enemy occupying our land. This land must be liberated so our green cedar may live high above us, also that we may again chant: We are all for the homeland, we are all for the homeland. Peace be upon you.

Al-Wazzan's entourage then proceeded to Fu'ad al-Awwal Street, where the prime minister was met by French Ambassador Paul Marc Henry and some party officials.

The earthen barrier in the Al-Barbir area was removed and units of the internal security forces have taken up positions there.

JUNBLATT STRESSES PHALANGIST MILITIA DISARMAMENT

GF021726 Doha QNA in Arabic 0912 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 Sep (QNA) -- In a statement published here today, Walid Junblatt, chairman of the political council of the Lebanese National Movement, affirmed his rejection of any talk of the movement giving up its arms unless it coincides with a Phalangist militia disarmament. He said the goal of the Israeli-Phalangist plan is to emasculate the Lebanese left.

Walid Junblatt made it conditional for holding a dialogue between the Lebanese National Movement and the Lebanese rightwing that such a dialogue should be based on national principles and should not be under Israeli pressure. He said the required minimum for this is the agreement by the other party to four points: the elimination of the Israeli occupation once and for all, the refusal of all results of the occupation, the rejection of a peace treaty with Israel and the demand for the unconditional implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 508 and 509.

In a statement to the UAE newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, Junblatt added that since the Phalangist militia leader has legally become president of the republic, thus conspicuously destroying the old Lebanese form and balance in favor of the Maronite privileges, a real partnership is needed today more than ever. He pointed out this is the stand adopted by the Islamic world in general. However, as a party and a national movement, we insist on the necessity of abolishing political sectarianism, he said.

Furthermore, Junblatt said no one can imagine that we will go back to the Middle Ages because of the Maronite privileges resulting from the election of Bashir al-Jumayyil. Answering a question about Bashir al-Jumayyil's reported offer of the Defense Ministry portfolio, Junblatt said that even if Bashir offered him the Presidency he would not accept it under current conditions.

In his statement Junblatt described northern Lebanon as liberated, saying that liberating Lebanon could be achieved from the north. Moreover, he said, a period of rest will come that will last 6 months to 1 year. During this period he will reexamine the National Movement and reconsider the old form of this movement in order to confront the new phase which he said will focus on confronting the Israeli-Phalangist plan.

He said: We are studying ways to confront them with other national allies, the Islamic community and the Amal movement. He said we will not let the Israeli-Phalangist plan (?find its way into the) new era in Lebanon.

He noted that 20 persons have been kidnapped from the 'Alay district, most of them Druze, and that dozens of Christian nationalists have been kidnapped from the Bhamdun district and their fate is still unknown. In addition, 18 persons from the Amal movement have been kidnapped from the science faculty in the Ash-Shwayfat area and their fate is still unknown.

NATIONAL BLOC LEADER SCORES AL-JUMAYYIL ELECTION

PM011445 Brussels LE SOIR in French 27 Aug 82 p 3

[Lebanese National Bloc leader Raymond Iddih interviewed by "M.LI," in Paris -- date not given]

[Text] Raymond Iddih is generally regarded as the leader of the moderate Lebanese Christians. He has been living in exile in Paris since 4 July 1977 -- after being the target of several attacks -- and he still plays a considerable role on his country's political stage as leader of the National Bloc. Moreover, he obtained the only parliamentary vote not cast for Bashir al-Jumayyil during the recent presidential election. He agreed to comment on Mr al-Jumayyil's accession to the Presidency and on the development of the situation in Lebanon exclusively for LE SOIR. The following are the main extracts of the statements he made to us:

"Al-Jumayyil's election is a challenge to any national reconciliation. Despite appearances, it is an outright scandal. It may be mathmatically "correct" but the necessary quorum was not attained. The quorum is 66 out of 99 deputies. However, the speaker considered that the 7 dead deputies ought to be subtracted from the figure 99, which reduced the quorum to 62. Moreover, the Phalangists were not even sure of attaining that figure. Therefore, the election is neither legal nor legitimate.

"In addition, the location chosen by the speaker for holding the election was not democratic; he chose a barracks surrounded by pro-Phalangist soldiers. And a few hundred meters from that barracks were Israeli tanks. The election of Ilyas Sarkis, the outgoing president, also took place under the threat of bayonets -- Syrian in his case. However, there is a big difference, and it was less serious because the Syrian Army, which was occupying Lebanon, was finally accepted as an Arab army, as soon as it obtained a mandate from the Arab League.

"A distinction should thus be drawn between the Syrian Army, which is not an enemy army, and the Israeli army, which occupies two-thirds of Lebanese territory and which is legally an enemy army. Indeed, our relations with Israel are still governed by an armistice agreement. Furthermore, there has never been any contact between the legal Lebanese authority and any official Israeli figure; all the negotiations took place through Mr Habib.

"Some deputies were subjected to pressure and had threats made against them, but that could clearly not be seen by the foreign observers present. The new president has in fact been appointed by Israel and the United States....

"Bashir al-Jumayyil was responsible for 'Black Saturday' in which 160 Muslims were killed. He ordered the massacre of the Franjiyah family. He killed 300 Maronites on 7 July 1980 -- supporters of his ally Camille Sha'mun. I will not cooperate with a murderer....

"Nothing has been settled in Lebanon. Israel's plan, which dates from 1954 and was drawn up by Ben Gurion, is now being implemented. That plan aimed at destabilizing Lebanon to distract the Arab regimes' attention from the young State of Israel.

The Israelis' objective has always been the foundation of a small Maronite state and it is now materializing. I think there is a tacit agreement between Israel and Syria to have a confrontation only in Lebanon, and it is possible the Israelis may cede part of Lebanon to the Syrians in exchange for the Golan Heights. They are reserving southern Lebanon up to the Litani River for themselves."

PSP OFFICIAL URGES ARAB SUPPORT FOR SYRIA, PLO

JN030715 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 3 Sep 82

[Text] Beirut -- Muhsin Dallul, vice president of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] in Lebanon, has called on the Arab nation to provide assistance and support for Syria and the PLO. In a statement to the SANA correspondent in Beirut, he said: What is required now, after the Zionist invasion of Lebanon with the support and encouragement of the United States, is for the coming Arab summit to adopt firm resolutions that will prevent Lebanon's inclusion in the Camp David accords through the signing of a capitulatory treaty with the Zionists, the enemies of the Arab nation.

Dallul added: The Arab summit must ensure full support for Syria, which is fighting in defense of the whole Arab nation and the PLO, which the Israeli invasion and the seige of nationalist Beirut could not destroy.

CABINET APPROVES NOMINATION OF NEW AMBASSADORS

NC022002 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in English 1815 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] The Council of Ministers held a meeting today at the B'abda Presidential Palace under the chairmanship of President Sarkis and in the presence of Prime Minister al-Wazzan. During the meeting, internal, political and security measures were discussed, one of which pertained to the resignation of the president of the Bank of Lebanon, Mr Michel al-Khuri, plus the acceptance of Mr Ghassan Tuwayni's resignation as permanent Lebanese representative to the UN General Assembly.

During the meeting, it was also decided to supply a financial aid of 5 million Lebanese pounds to the Beirut city municipality to restore a certain amount of cleanliness -- putting away the debris of 8 years of war -- as well as paying the respective employees their salaries. In addition, 6 million pounds was also given to the Ministry of Public Works for the restoration of the Beirut International Airport.

Before the end of the meeting, a Lebanese delegation to attend the Fes summit was formed under Minister Joseph Abu Khatir. Another delegation headed by Foreign Affairs Minister Fu'ad Butrus has been formed to attend the UN General Assembly session.

The Council of Ministers today also approved the nomination of the following to the posts of ambassadors: Mr 'Abd ar-Rahman as-Sulh, head of the political department, as Lebanese ambassador in Brussels; Mr Samir Mubarak, head of the cabinet of Foreign Affairs Minister Fu'ad Butrus, as Lebanese ambassador in Stockholm; Brigadier Ahmad al-Haj as the next ambassador in London; Mr Khalil Haddad, the director of protocol at the B'abda Presidential Palace, as the next Lebanese ambassador in Rome; and Mr Faruq Abu al-Lam' as the next ambassador attached to the central head office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

CORRECTION TO AL-MURABITUN, COMMUNIST ACTION ARMING

The following correction should be made to the item entitled "Al-Murabitun, Communist Action Arming in Beirut," published in the 1 September Middle East and Africa DAILY REPORT on page G 6:

Make the headline read: "Al-Murabitun, 'Red Knights' Arming in Beirut."

PRESIDENT HAFIZ AL-ASAD INTERVIEWED BY STERN

JN020715 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 2 Aug 82

["Text" of interview given by President Hafiz al-Asad to STERN magazine team comprising Peter-Hannes Lehmann and Perry Kretz -- place, date not given -- read by announcer]

[Text] [Question] Syria's announcement expressing its readiness to receive thousands of PLO fighters from Israeli-besieged Beirut has averted a bloodbath that would have been more hideous than that which had already taken place in Beirut and has alleviated an international political crisis, though temporarily. However, doesn't this mean that, in so doing, Syria is forging ahead toward isolating itself in the Arab world, the world which had offered a lot of verbal support to the Palestinian liberation struggle and which, with the exception of Syria, did nothing in assisting the Palestinians during the fighting in Beirut?

[Answer] The Palestinians are a part of our nation, and the Palestinian issue is the issue of all Arabs. If some Arabs, as you have said, have failed or continue to fail in giving the necessary support for this issue, this means there is something wrong going on that must be put right. I don't believe there is anything insinuating that Syria might possibly be isolated due to its harboring of the Palestinians, particularly since this is not new. At any rate, we will not pay attention [nahras] to any Arab regime endeavoring to isolate Syria or to isolate itself from Syria due to its harboring of the Palestinian fighters or due to its sacrifices for the sake of the Palestinian issue. I repeat that such a possibility, namely the possible isolation of Syria, does not exist.

[Question] There are certain Arab countries, whose stands on the Israeli invasion of Lebanon are known, such as Egypt and Iraq, and there are other Arab countries that have verbally supported the Palestinians. In my opinion, Syria is the only Arab country that adopted a clear-cut, practical and declared stand. My question is: What rights will be enjoyed by the PLO fighters who have arrived in your country? Will they be allowed to keep their weapons, or will they be asked to hand them over? Where will they reside, and what other means of assistance will be given to them by Syria?

[Answer] The Palestinian fighters have been here for a long time. If the question pertains to the rights of the new fighters who have come to Syria from Beirut, I can tell you that their rights are the same as the Palestinian fighters who were in Syria before. At any rate, their weapons belong to them and will remain in their hands, and we will supply them with weapons if required. They will reside in more than one suitable place [makan mula'im] in Syria. They will have full freedom to work for the sake of their cause.

[Question] I would like to ask the president if he intends to keep the Palestinian fighters who arrived from Beirut in Syria and if some of them can or should leave to camps inside Lebanon?

[Answer] As far as this matter is concerned, Syria is not a party to this subject, because the agreements took place between the PLO and the Lebanese Government. The Lebanese Government is responsible for implementing its agreements with the PLO. Similarly, the PLO is responsible for implementing its agreements with the Lebanese Government. However, Syria is absolutely not concerned with this subject. Nobody made an agreement with us. We have no agreements with either the PLO or the Lebanese Government about such matters. It is obvious that the PLO sent the Palestinian fighters to Syria to reside in Syria.

[Question] They will, therefore, reside in Syria?

[Answer] This is our understanding of the agreement from our Palestinian brothers and from the reports disseminated by news agencies and newspapers.

[Question] As a result of their stubborness in Lebanon, the Israelis have lost the sympathy accorded them on the international level. It appears that the PLO has scored a great political victory after a military defeat. Do you believe the PLO leadership will shore up this victory by relying in future on achieving its objectives by resorting to political and diplomatic means more than in the past, or, as many people in Europe fear, is there the danger that the Palestine liberation movement might return to terrorist tactics as was the case in the past?

[Answer] Actually, I cannot say exactly what the PLO will do during the next phase. It is natural, however, that the PLO will continue its mounting struggle for the sake of the Palestinian people's rights. Most likely, the PLO will pursue more than one road to serve its objectives in order to regain its usurped rights. As for the word terrorism mentioned in your question, I must say here that there should be a clear distinction between the resistance practiced by peoples in defense of their rights against the aggressors, and terrorism. If the Palestinian people's struggle for the sake of their legitimate rights, particularly their right to self-determination, is considered terrorism, then all world peoples who have been oppressed and had struggled to fend off this oppression have practiced terrorism. I think that if we approve such a judgment, we would be doing an injustice to all world strugglers who are struggling for the sake of the peoples' issues and issues of freedom. I don't believe either you or I want this. Generally speaking, the Palestinans are practicing a resistance against those who occupied their land and evicted them from it. They are not practicing terrorism.

[Question] Does the president believe the Palestinians will resort to what we may term extreme radical actions in order not to use the word terrorism?

[Answer] As far as I know, as far as the individual actions that took place -- and for which accusations were leveled against the Palestinians -- are concerned, the PLO has denied its responsibility. The PLO has even denied its connection to the incident of the Israeli ambassador in London. Investigations have revealed that the PLO had no connection with the incident. In my previous answer, I said I cannot exactly say what the PLO will do during the next phase. However, most probably, the PLO will resort to more than one method. The PLO will practice resistance on the political and military levels. I know the PLO has denied responsibility for every terrorist action as a firm policy. However, one cannot predict the results of the barbaric operation, ruination and killing committed by Israel against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples in Beirut. I want to ask: Is there any terrorism more hideous than that committed in Beirut? Tens of thousands have either been killed, wounded or displaced. This horrendous Israeli operation that lasted more than 2 months took place in front of the entire world. It was an operation of organized terrorism and destruction carried out by a state against buildings housing civilians -- women, elderly and children. Even civilians, including children, who were captured in the towns, were put in nets like fish and were transported by helicopters to detention camps. Terrorism committed by individuals is one thing, but terrorism practiced by a state is something else. Israel has made terrorism its permanent policy.

[Question] The arrival of several thousand PLO soldiers and armed men experienced in guerrilla warfare makes Damascus a new stronghold of the Palestine liberation movement as, until recently, was the case in Beirut. Won't this render Damascus a center of new conflicts as in Beirut?

[Answer] The objective circumstances in Damascus differ from those in Beirut. At any rate, we are in a state of war with Israel. Irrespective of the contingencies, we are not prepared to renounce our rights, nor the Palestinian people's rights nor the occupied Arab territories.

[Question] The PLO is currently enjoying the right of a homeland in Syria [haq al-watan fi Syria]. The PLO has a political command headquarters in Damascus as well as some training camps. Isn't there some danger that the PLO might carry out guerrilla warfare against Israel from Syria, a matter that might incite Israel to launch a war against Syria?

[Answer] Actually, Israel needs no excuses. Rather, Israel is pursuing a designated expansionist scheme. We Arabs must continue our preparations and update our equipment to confront the expansionist campaigns launched periodically by Israel.

[Question] The commander of the Christian Phalangists in Lebanon, Bashir al-Jumayyil, has been elected the new Lebanese president. Do you envisage any cooperation with Lebanon under Al-Jumayyil as was the case under President Sarkis, who sought the help of Syrian forces in 1976? If the answer is yes, under what conditions?

[Answer] Lebanon is passing through a critical stage, the dimensions of which are not clear. At the end of the road everything will become clear. As for relations between Syrian and Lebanese citizens, they have been deeply rooted throughout history. No one can cast doubts on this. However, the present authority in Lebanon is not that of any president, any prime minister, or any official; it is rather the authority of occupation. Every Israeli officer in Lebanon behaves as if he were the president of the republic. Also, every Israeli soldier in Lebanon behaves like the president of the republic.

[Question] The Israelis have announced that they will not withdraw their forces from Lebanon until Syrian forces have withdrawn. When and under what conditions will you be ready to withdraw Syrian forces from Lebanon? Sharon has said Damascus falls within the range of Israeli artillery.

[Answer] Israel says something and does something else. More than a year ago, and in reply to a question put forth by STERN to the effect that Israel feels it is threatened, I said Israel is not the one that is threatened; rather it is we who are threatened. I also said we believe that Israel intends to achieve a new expansionist step, whether in the form of occupying Lebanese land or in the form of placing the Lebanese state under its hegemony. We now see that Israel has actually achieved this expansionist step.

When Israel started its aggression against Lebanon, it said it wanted to evacuate the Palestinians from an area to a depth of 40 km. It called it the peace for Galilee operation. Israel did not say at the beginning that it wanted to evacuate the PLO from Beirut, nor did it say it wanted to evacuate Syrian forces from Lebanon. However, Israel is now repeating all this. Based on the aforementioned, isn't it our right to expect that Israel wants other things such as another expansion? We are not invaders in Lebanon.

We entered Lebanon to help the Lebanese as our brothers and to put an end to the civil war from which the Lebanese were suffering. We had actually ended it and suffered sacrifices in this regard. We entered Lebanon at the request of the Lebanese authorities. Also, we remained there for years at the request of the Lebanese authorities. This was renewable every 6 months and was with an Arab agreement. Hence, our departure from Lebanon is a bilateral Syrian-Lebanese matter and is an internal Arab matter. As for Israel's threats, they have been exhausted for some time. If they warn that Damascus falls within the range of their artillery they must remember that there are Israeli cities that fall within the range of our artillery and that most of Israel's cities fall within the range of our other weapons.

[Question] It is noted among other things from the friendship and cooperation agreement signed between Syria and the Soviet Union that military assistance will be given to Syria. A ranking Soviet delegation recently arrived in Damascus.

Did you ask Moscow to give you new weapons or to compensate you for the war materiel that has been lost?

[Answer] It is known that our primary arms source is the Soviet Union. Accordingly, discussing the question of arms is an almost continuous process. It is natural to deduce that we discussed such topics at this stage.

[Question] There is talk that you were disappointed during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and that the Soviet Union did not do what was expected of it. What is the value of the friendship treaty if either side does not help the other as the treaty stipulates?

[Answer] We have to be fair here. The United States is giving unlimited military, economic and political aid to Israel. The United States is giving Israel about $3 billion every year. Israel, by means of this aid, is capable of carrying out periodic aggression and expanionist steps. We are confronting these Israel expansionist designs. We are resisting these Israeli attacks using the weapons we are receiving from the Soviet Union. Furthermore, the Soviet Union is siding with us in all international conferences and is strongly opposing the Israeli attempts of aggression. The Soviet Union continues to adopt a firm-principled stand against the occupation of our land and the eviction of the Palestinian people and in support of the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate rights in their homeland and to regain the occupied Arab land. He who does this must be a friend of the Arabs.

[Question] Shouldn't the Soviet Union have done more than it did during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon?

[Answer] Well, in every war, in every battle and in every plan there are always minor things that are negotiable in one way or another. However, what is more important is that one must perceive things objectively and comprehensively. Is the United States giving us what the Soviet Union is giving us? If the United States had given us the same as the Soviet Union, it would have been a friendly state. If the United States had sided with us as the Soviet Union, we would have said overtly and covertly that the United States is a friendly state. However, the United States has done nothing like this, and there is no one that can say it will.

[Question] The PLO fighters and civilians who will come to Syria and those who now live in Syria will not be able to stay in Syria forever. Where will they go one day? Have you thought of drawing up a plan, perhaps Al-Asad's plan, containing new potential to resolve this heavy political crisis and to assist the Palestinians in attaining their rights?

[Answer] For years we have been asserting that we support peace and want to realize a just and lasting peace in the area based on the UN Security Council's resolutions, which we as well as the international community represented by the Security Council have supported. We have supported many peace calls and proposals that have been proposed in many places and on many occasions. However, we do no believe Israel is serious about or desirous of achieving a just peace. Israel wants to impose its will and designs in this area and, consequently, to impose capitulation on the Arab nation.

However, we asserted in the past and we assert now that Israel will not be able to realize its dreams of expansion and hegemony in this area. The Arab nation will continue to resist the Israeli expansionist dreams and will be able to terminate these dreams. We will triumph in the end because falsehood leads down a blind alley.

[Question] What will you propose at the next Arab summit, which we understand will convene soon?

[Answer] The Arab foreign ministers conference is convening now. Its task is to draw up the agenda of the Arab summit conference and to discuss as far as possible the provisions of the agenda as part of the preparations for holding the Arab summit conference. The foreign ministers conference will also define the date of the convocation of the summit conference. There is no doubt that the invasion of Lebanon and the Arab-Israeli struggle will constitute the first topic on the agenda. At the summit, we must discuss what should be done to eliminate the Israeli occupation of Lebanon and of other Arab territories and what should be done for the sake of the Palestinian people's rights.

[Question] Mr President, do you still support Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and do you still support a Palestinian state in the West Bank?

[Answer] Yes. We still support Resolution 338 including [wa min dimnih] Resolution 242. We also support the setting up of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

[Question] Following the wars of 1947, 1948, 1967 and 1973 and the current Israeli invasion of Lebanon, as a result of which Israel made some gains by using force, do you see that wars must be stopped and that a solution must take place through political means?

[Answer] This question should not be directed at us. Rather, it should be directed at the invading aggressors. Our only option is to beef up our defensive means and bridge the gaps from which the enemy is benefiting. We can bridge these gaps, and we Arabs have the objective means that make us confident of the future victory.

[Question] Therefore, this means war?

[Answer] We do not want war. We want and are seeking a just peace, but Israel is imposing war on the area, and it is our duty to defend ourselves.

CUBA'S FLAVIO BRAVO CONTINUES VISIT TO DAMASCUS

Meets With Khaddam

JN021050 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam this morning received the Cuban parliamentary delegation headed by Flavio Bravo Pardo, president of the Cuban National Assembly of the people's government. Talks centered on the current international situation and relations between the two friendly countries.

Meets With Al-Asad

JN022156 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] At 1830 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received the Cuban parliamentary delegation led by Flavio Bravo Pardo, president of the National Assembly of the people's government in Cuba. The meeting was attended by Mahmud az-Zu'bi, speaker of the Syrian National Assembly.

Bravo conveyed to the president greetings from Cuban President F'del Castro and expressed his pleasure at visiting Syria and learning about its achievements and courageous stands against imperialism and Zionism. He said the Cuban parliamentary delegation's visit to Syria under the current circumstances is an expression of solidarity between the Cuban people on the one hand and the Syrian, Lebanese and Palestinian peoples on the other against the imperialist-Zionist invasion.

The president thanked the delegation for its sentiments and for Cuba's stand of solidarity and reiterated our people's determination to continue confronting the imperialist-Zionist onslaught and foiling the plots designed to be implemented in our region against the Arab nation's interests. The president said: We and the Cuban people are in the same position and in the same trench in the advanced line of confrontation with imperialism and its agents. Our enemy is the same and our position is the same regardless of geographical considerations. Cuba is a permanent target for U.S. imperialism in Latin America. Syria is also a target for imperialism and Zionism in the Middle East. This is because Syria and Cuba strongly oppose imperialist designs.

The president expressed confidence that peoples will emerge victorious against imperialism, Zionism and racism, because they sacrifice and make creative achievements when their freedom, independence, dignity and national will are at stake.

The president asked the Cuban delegation to convey greetings to President Fidel Castro, the people of Cuba and the members of the National Assembly of the people's government in Cuba.

Holds News Conference

JN030740 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 3 Sep 82

[Text] Flavio Bravo Pardo, president of the Cuban National Assembly of the people's government, held a news conference last night. He addressed greetings to the Syrian people and affirmed that Syria, under the leadership of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, is bound to triumph and achieve its objective.

Bravo pointed out that Syria is not alone in the battle against U.S. imperialism and Zionism but is backed by all people who love freedom, progress and peace.

Bravo hailed the heroic steadfastness of the Syrian and Palestinian Revolution and Lebanese nationalist forces and declared the solidarity of Cuba -- party, government and people -- with the Syrian and Palestinian peoples' just struggle against the aggressive and expansionist designs of U.S. imperialism and Zionism. He condemned the capitulatory Camp David accords and the policy pursued by the U.S. Government against the peoples of the world. He said this policy is based on savagery, domination and plundering of peoples' resources.

Concluding his press conference, Bravo expressed his thanks and gratitude for the warm reception accorded him and the members of his delegation during this successful visit. He said: We are leaving Syria with excellent impressions. We felt during this visit the determination of the Syrian people and their leadership to continue the struggle until the Zionist invaders have been repulsed, the occupied Arab territories liberated and the Palestinian peoples' legitimate rights regained, including their right to determine their own destiny and set up their state on their national soil.

DAMASCUS RADIO ANALYZES REAGAN PEACE PLAN

JN022236 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2150 GMT 2 Sep 82

[From "Today's Events" program]

[Text] President Ronald Reagan made a speech today that included certain ideas and opinions which he alleges constitute a basis for the peace process in the Middle East. More on these ideas and opinions in the following report prepared by our colleague Yunis Ayyub:

Early this morning, President Reagan made an unusual appearance on television and spoke at length on a number of sensitive international issues, including the Middle East problem, which took up a great part of his speech. He expressed a number of ideas and opinions that, he alleges, constitute a new U.S. plan for what he called peace in the Middle East. Western media rushed to highlight this speech and Western radio stations began broadcasting and repeating it in their newscasts and news programs, describing it as a new U.S. plan for peace in the Middle East.

In his speech, President Reagan asserted that the Camp David agreement is still the basis for U.S. policy in the region and that the wording of the agreement allows all parties concerned the necessary time to make a success of the negotiations to find a permanent and comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem.

In an attempt to realize a political victory that could not be realized by the Zionist invasion of Lebanon, Reagan asked all Arab states to emulate the Egyptian regime and to accept the Zionist entity as a fait accompli [haqiqah waqi'ah] in the region. He reiterated his rejection of the idea of establishing a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, saying word for word: As we view the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, we find it obvious that peace cannot be realized through the establishment of a Palestinian state in these two areas.

Committing himself to the basic guidelines of the Camp David agreements, Reagan, with utter simplicity, reduced the rights of the Palestinian people to a form of autonomy in the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and said: Washington's firm view is that a Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza connected with Jordan will be the best opportunity to realize a permanent, just and durable peace in the region. Reagan also reiterated his country's rejection of any suggestion that, as he put it, would threaten Israel's security and warned that his administration will oppose any suggestion by any party and at any stage of the negotiation process that might harm what he termed Israel's security. He reiterated that the U.S. commitment to Israel's security is firm and that his own commitment to this security is also firm.

When he referred to the Zionist invasion of Lebanon, Reagan indirectly admitted the failure of the Zionist entity to realize its aims and said: The war in Lebanon made numerous things apparent. However, two of its results have great bearing on what he called the peace process in the region. The first result is that the military losses of the PLO did not wipe out the Palestinian people's aspirations for a just solution for their demands. The second result is that force alone cannot realize what he called permanent peace for Israel.

These ideas and opinions in Reagan's speech to the American people are absolutely identical with the previous ideas and opinions of some of Zionist leaders. Taken as a whole, these ideas and opinions do not square with the right of the Palestinian people in determining their own fate and in establishing their independent national state on the occupied Palestinian territory. If these ideas and opinions have any significance at present, it is that the United States is still ignoring the UN resolutions and the ideas of the majority states. The UN resolutions are based on the need to recognize the national rights of the Palestinian people to return to self-determination and independence.

DAMASCUS NOTES ISRAEL'S REJECTION OF REAGAN PLAN

JN021730 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] Within the U.S.-Zionist joint campaign of deception and elusion, the Zionist Cabinet today rejected the so-called U.S. peace plan suggested by the U.S. President in his speech yesterday. Reporting this, the enemy radio said that Israel was surprised by Reagan's proposals and had not learned about them in advance. It said that these proposals could not be accepted despite the fact that Reagan himself has asserted that his peace plan was based on the Camp David accords.

The enemy radio also said that Begin will send a detailed letter in reply to President Reagan on the coordination of U.S.-Zionist joint plans in the Middle East and his answers to U.S. proposals.

CABINET ISSUES STATEMENT ON REAGAN INITIATIVE

TA021328 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1320 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Statement by Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor following Cabinet meeting on 2 September -- live]

[Text] [Picked up in progress by radio] A. Jerusalem. The U.S. position: participation by the Palestinian residents of east Jerusalem in the elections for the authority of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. Quote end quote. There is no mention in the Camp David accords of such a voting right. Such a right means one thing only: the redivision of Jerusalem into two authorities, one authority being the State of Israel and the other authority being the administrative council of the autonomy. Jerusalem is not at all mentioned in the Camp David accords. On the matter of the Israeli capital, letters were sent and appended to the accords. In his letter to U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin wrote that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel a single and indivisible city and so it shall remain for eternity.

B. Security. The U.S. position: Palestinian participation that will gradually develop responsibility for domestic security based on their ability and implementation. Quote end quote. The Camp David accords stated -- I am quoting -- there will be a withdrawal of the Israeli Armed Forces and the remaining Israeli forces will redeploy in specified security locations. The agreement will also include arrangements to guarantee both the domestic and external security as well as the public order.

We see then that the Camp David accords do not include a distinction between domestic and external security. There is no doubt at all that if domestic security is not Israel's responsibility, the terrorist organization called the PLO, even after its defeat in Lebanon by the IDF, will act to cause continual bloodshed among Jews and Arabs alike. This is a question of life or death for Israeli citizens.

C. A real freeze on the settlements. There is no mention of such a freeze in the Camp David accords. At Camp David the prime minister agreed that no new settlements would be established, however, people will be added to the existing settlements during the negotiations period for the signing of a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel -- 3 months. This was clearly stated. This commitment was fully met. The 3-month period ended on 17 December 1978. Since then, settlements were set up in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza without evicting a single person from his village or city. Settlement is a Jewish right which is not in question and is an integral part of our national security. There will then be no freeze on settlements. We will continue to establish them in accordance with our natural right.

President Reagan announced at the time that the settlements are not illegal. A double negative makes a positive, meaning, the settlements are legal. We will then act according to our natural right, according to law, and we shall not deviate from the rule that these vital settlements do not result in any evictions.

D. The definition of full autonomy. The U.S. position: The definition of full autonomy grants the Palestinian residents real authority over themselves, regarding the land and its resources, subject to fair guarantees on the water issue. Quote end quote. There is no mention of such a definition in the Camp David accords where it is said that to guarantee full autonomy to the inhabitants...and so on. [sentence as heard] In the lengthy discussions at Camp David it was made absolutely clear that the autonomy does not concern territory but inhabitants.

E. Ties with Jordan. The U.S. position: economic, commercial, social and cultural relations between Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip on the one hand, and Jordan on the other. Quote end quote. In all of the articles of the Camp David accords there is no mention of such ties.

F. Israeli sovereignty. There is nothing in the Camp David accords that prevents the application of Israeli sovereignty to Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip at the end of the transition period which begins upon the establishment and operation of the self-governing authority, the administrative council. This was announced by the official spokesman of the U.S. Government as well.

G. A Palestinian state. The U.S. Government promises that it rejects the establishment of a Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. To our regret, according to the apparent reality, this is nothing but an illusion. If the U.S. plan were to materialize, nothing would prevent King Husayn from inviting his new friend Yasir 'Arafat to come to Nabulus and tell him no. [sentence as heard] Thus a Palestinian state would have been set up and it would have signed an alliance pact with the Soviet Union and equipped itself with all modern arms. If the PLO could do so in Lebanon, by establishing a state within a state, this would be all the more true for the terrorists if they controlled Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. Then a joint front would have been created for this Palestinian state with Jordan and Iraq behind it, with Saudi Arabia in the south and Syria in the north. All these countries, together with other Arab countries, would have, after a while, assaulted the State of Israel. It is inconceivable that Israel would ever agree to such a settlement whose consequences are inevitable.

As said, since the positions of the U.S. Government gravely deviate from the Camp David accords, contradict it and may create a serious danger to Israel, its security and its future, the Government of Israel has decided that on the basis of these positions it will not enter any negotiations with any element.

The Government of Israel is prepared to immediately resume the autonomy talks with the U.S. and Egyptian Governments, signatories to the Camp David accords, as well as with other countries and elements invited to participate in them, in these accords, with the intention of reaching an agreement on realizing full autonomy for the Arab inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip based on total loyalty to the Camp David accords.

This is the Cabinet announcement. I will also add that in the Cabinet meeting ministers expressed surprise and bitterness that the U.S. positions were presented to us without having consulted us first and all the more so as they consulted not only with Egypt, a signatory to the Camp David accords, but also with Jordan and Saudi Arabia who totally reject the accords. The ministers noted that this is a clear violation of U.S. commitments given to Israel. In the memorandum of understanding with Israel, signed on 20 December 1973, the United States clearly undertook -- and I am quoting -- to consult Israel fully, on the basis of each step regarding any idea which the United States may want to raise with the Soviets or the Arabs regarding a political settlement.

In the letter from President Ford to Prime Minister Rabin on 1 September 1975, the United States again clearly undertook that if it wants -- and this is a quote -- to raise proposals of its own in the future -- it will make every effort to coordinate its proposals with Israel with the aim of refraining from raising proposals that Israel would consider unsatisfactory. These U.S. commitments were not honored and the ministers took note of this. I will read the Cabinet announcement in English. [Here coverage is returned to studio]

REPORTAGE ON 2 SEPTEMBER CABINET SESSION

Proposals 'Angrily Rejected'

TA030858 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Sep 82 pp 1, 2

[Report by Asher Wallfish and David Richardson]

[Text] The Cabinet, meeting in extraordinary session yesterday, angrily rejected U.S. President Ronald Reagan's proposals on the future of the autonomy talks. The decision was unanimous.

The rejection was explained to Reagan by Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

However, the Cabinet took no operational decisions calculated to turn the inevitable confrontation into a collision. Begin rejected a proposal by Science Minister Yuval Ne'eman to speed up settlement in the areas or apply Israeli law there.

And it kept the door open for an immediate resumption of the autonomy talks, provided that the Reagan proposals do not serve as a basis or contradict the Camp David agreement.

Begin, meeting U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger at the Carlton Hotel in Nahariyya where he is vacationing, told Weinberger that Israel does not consider Reagan's ideas a basis for discussing autonomy. Israel, Begin said, will return to the talks with the previous parties and will welcome participation by all those whose invitation is envisaged in the Camp David agreements.

The published Cabinet decisions measured Reagan's ideas against the Camp David agreement and described them as either contradictory to it or absent from it.

The Cabinet criticized seven positions advanced by Reagan, including voting rights for east Jerusalem Arabs; West Bank Arab control of internal security; the demand for a settlement freeze; the definition of full autonomy; ties with Jordan; the non-application of Israeli sovereignty; and the eventuality of a Palestinian state.

With regard to the last point, the Cabinet said that U.S. commitments not to support the establishment of a Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District were illusory since there is nothing to stop Jordan from handing Judaea-Samaria over to the PLO.

Begin spoke very heatedly in the Cabinet about the Reagan plan calling it "worse than the Rogers plan." (The plan submitted some time after the six day war by then Secretary of State William Rogers called for a return to the pre-1967 borders).

Begin said that he told U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis, on receiving the message from Reagan with the first outline of the new proposals: "It is the saddest day I have had since becoming prime minister of Israel."

He blamed the U.S. for having come out with the plan the moment the evacuation of Beirut came to an end. He said that Israel handed Lebanon to the U.S. on a "silver platter" only to have the U.S. treat it "in this cavalier fashion."

Begin's "silver platter" phrase hinted at the hundreds of Israeli casualties who fell in the campaign in Lebanon and was an echo of the poem by that name by the late poet Natan alterman, who wrote that the 1948 war dead were the "silver platter" on which the State of Israel was handed to the Jewish people.

The American timing, Begin said, was an affront to Israel, after Israel had given the U.S. the opportunity to expand its influence in the Middle East.

"If the Americans wish to negotiate a peace treaty, they need a party to negotiate with. Israel will not negotiate with the Americans on the basis of these proposals," a senior government source said yesterday after the Cabinet discussion.

It is not clear whether Reagan's proposals are a pre-condition for the resumption of negotiations. "If they are, this is unfair, illogical and unacceptable," the official said.

Begin was clearly incensed by the fact that the U.S. administration had not only failed to discuss the new American position in advance with Israel but had also apparently seen fit to inform Israel of their existence and content only after informing Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor, briefing the press after the Cabinet session yesterday, recalled two previous American undertakings to consult with Israel before airing new policies on the Middle East.

One of these was the memorandum of understanding between the two governments of December 20, 1973, in which the U.S. promised: "In the spirit of the special relationship that exists between our two countries, the U.S. will consult fully with Israel on a step-by-step basis with respect to any ideas it may wish to explore with the Soviets or with the Arabs concerning the settlement (of the Middle East problem)."

The second was a Presidential undertaking given to former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by President Gerald Ford on September 1, 1975. "Should the United States desire in the future to put forward proposals of its own it will make every effort to coordinate with Israel its proposals with a view to refraining from putting forth proposals that Israel would consider unsatisfactory."

The Cabinet made it clear that the Reagan administration's abandonment of these written undertakings undermine the weight of its opposition to the creation of a Palestinian state or other ostensibly pro-Israeli position in Reagan's latest proposals.

Cabinet sources noted that Jordan's King Husayn in a recent interview on ABC television stressed that he had no territorial claims on the West Bank. It is clear that he could install PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Nabulus and set up a Palestinian state, endangering the security of Israel, they said.

Begin told the Cabinet of his response on receiving Reagan's proposals from Ambassador Lewis. Begin termed the proposals a "second Rogers plan" and recalled that when the original Rogers plan was brought to the late Prime Minister Golda Me'ir, she summoned an American journalist and said: "Any government in Israel that would accept this plan would betray its own people."

"On the same basis, I want to tell you, Mr. Ambassador," Begin reported to the Cabinet, I am convinced that any government in Israel that would accept Rogers Plan Number Two would betray its people. We will not betray our people."

The Cabinet is clearly disturbed by the fact that America seems to have abandoned its role as "honest broker" in the autonomy negotiations. "Until now this was basic," said one government source, "now they have taken a position."

Another basic change in the American position, in the view of the Cabinet, is the fact that the U.S. has come out clearly in favour of [a] Jordanian link as a solution to the question of the final status of the territories.

"The whole trick of Camp David was to leave this open and deal only with the interim stage," said a government official.

Cabinet sources suggested that the government had picked up "the footprints" of Labour Party leader Shim'on Peres in the American proposals. One source, referring to the way the American opposition to a Palestinian state was phrased as "since there is a consensus against this in Israel," called this an echo of the Labour Party platform.

Ministers were "angered and astonished" by Reagan's description of the removal of the PLO from Beirut as the almost single-handed feat of Ambassador Philip Habib and 800 U.S. Marines, without any mention of Israel or the Israel Defence Forces.

Begin said that the PLO would not have left west Beirut any more than the Syrian ground-to-air missiles left Lebanon had the IDF not acted. (This was a cut at Habib, who negotiated vainly for a year to get the Syrian Government to take out the missiles it had moved in the summer of 1981 after Israel shot down two Syrian helicopters.

Begin: Hard Campaign Ahead

TA021608 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Excerpt] In the Cabinet meeting, Menahem Begin also said that Israel is now faced with a hard, deadly campaign and great hours of test both on the domestic and foreign fronts. He also leveled sharp criticism at Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres who, in his talks with U.S. administration officials, accelerated the decisionmaking process pertaining to the plan. The Labor Party has already reacted to this saying it will not be deterred by the Likud leaders' besmirching attempts.

Plans To Avoid Clash With Reagan

TA031033 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 Sep 82 p 1

[Report by Arye Tzimuqi]

[Text] The Government of Israel plans to launch an all-out political campaign against President Reagan's plan for the solution of the Palestinian problem.

The idea is to avoid a personal clash with the U.S. President, but at the same time to emphasize in all firmness that the Reagan plan can under no circumstances serve as the basis for the continuation of the autonomy negotiations.

The Knesset will hold a special session this coming Tuesday at the request of the Cabinet to discuss the latest political developments.

Ministers Comment

TA021131 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1125 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Excerpt] Let us now go over to our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer who is near the prime minister's office:

[Schiffer -- live] As expected, the Cabinet rejected the U.S. plan -- the new U.S. initiative for solving the Palestinian problem in the Middle East. The ministers were united on this position. The United States set out a position on the final status of the territories, something the parties at Camp David avoided doing.

The prime minister will now send a detailed message to President Reagan in which he will outline Israel's arguments and the points Israel feels contradict the Camp David accords.

There was a feeling of insult in the Cabinet meeting. The ministers spoke of the fact that the United States had not consulted Israel and preferred consulting King Husayn and the Saudi king, while the bride, Israel, was not asked for its opinion.

Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres was critized in the meeting. Some ministers claimed that Peres, in his trips and in his talks with U.S. administration officials, contributed to the U.S. administration's consolidating a position whereby the autonomy will have a link to Jordan.

Following the Cabinet meeting we spoke with several ministers. Let us hear remarks by Deputy Prime Minister David Levi, Energy Minister Yitzhaq Berman and Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir.

[Begin recording] [Levi] [Words indistinct] and what will happen after 5 years, still before the autonomy is over. The determination of what the negotiations will include -- even before they begin -- is a unilateral position, it is anti-Israel and it runs counter to the spirit of the agreement. Israel will not allow any deviation from the Camp David accords. In addition, there is already talk about the status of our settlements, that there cannot be any sort of extraterritorial [last word in English] sovereignty over them. The conclusion involves the possibility of the establishment of a Palestinian state. Israel will oppose this attempt and I hope that, ultimately, we will be able to convince and remove these tendencies.

[Berman] The point is not whether the plan is positive or negative. The positive point of the autonomy plan is that we are postponing the argument over the permanent solution by 5 years and then Israel can say what it thinks, Egypt can voice its opinion and possibly the United States can do so as well. The difference only lies in the fact that no harm is done by Israel saying today what it will propose in 5 years, nor is harm done if Egypt says today what it will propose in 5 years; but if the United States says this, this harms its efficacy as a mediator between us and Egypt. Therefore, it is totally irrelevant to get into the question as to whether the plan is good or bad. This is not relevant at all. The problem is one of timing. If the United States had waited 5 years, then it would be possible to argue whether the program is good or not. Today this will harm the United States' effectiveness as a mediator.

[Schiffer] How, in your opinion, should Israel now conduct the talks, the contacts with the United States? Should it do so by establishing new settlements or by a dialogue?

[Berman] I do not want to address myself to this. The main point is that, in my opinion, it was a mistake for the United States at this date to declare its intentions regarding the permanent solution.

[Sharir] I think that on the matter of settlements, the Government of Israel should continue with the plan decided upon in the past, regardless of the message or the speech by the U.S. President. There is no connection between the two things.

Our position on the U.S. President's proposal should be matter-of-fact. I think we cannot accept any of the proposals included in the U.S. President's speech. We are also surprised. This is a dictate to a certain extent; we were not consulted. We were astonished, like everyone else. We were also astonished by the fact that he found it appropriate to consult with King Husayn and the Saudi king on this issue, while their knowledge on this issue is less than ours.

This may also constitute an attempt to revive the PLO, to strengthen it today -- of all times -- after we made so many sacrifices to remove the PLO threat not only from the political arrangement but also from the Free World. Nevertheless, we should categorically announce that we demand [tov'im] the immediate resumption of autonomy negotiations in which we, as Israelis, as well as the Palestinians, are interested. This should be our position, clear-cut and unequivocal. [end recording]

'Sources' Comment

TA021709 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Excerpt] Cabinet sources expressed to our correspondent confidence that just as the United States pulled back from positions it adopted toward other states, including the European countries, when this harmed their national interests, so it will ultimately pull back from this plan as well since this runs counter to Israel's national interests.

Our correspondent says that from the recent contacts with the United States and from the documents that have been submitted to the prime minister these days it has transpired that the United States does not negate the establishment of a Palestinian state, but says it will not support the establishment of such a state and that the matter will be decided through negotiations.

Press Comments

TA030833 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0435 GMT 3 Sep 82

[From the review of morning press editorials]

[Text] DAVAR says that it is not a fear of an imposed solution which should determine the Israeli policy toward the Reagan plan, but the suitability of the U.S. ideas to the shape of the arrangement preferred by Israel. In Reagan's plan, there are many elements we could live with, there are other elements that should be argued, but on the whole the U.S. move is not a disaster for Israel. On the contrary, it is a basis for negotiations and advancing peace.

HA'ARETZ says that since the U.S. President, contrary to the rumor circulated 2 days ago by political sources in Jerusalem, does not make the acceptance of his plan a condition for resuming the autonomy talks, there is no reason to reject it in a Cabinet decision. The Cabinet should take into account the importance of the appearance of the U.S. President on television in a speech to the nation. Reagan personally promised to act so that the principles on which the U.S. plan for resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict is based will be wise and workable. The State of Israel cannot just reject them offhand, and there is also no need to reject them after discussion.

THE JERUSALEM POST says that it is only natural for the Alignment to welcome the U.S. initiative, with reservations, as a working model for an ultimate peace with Jordan. In the Cabinet yesterday, Begin was reported to have blasted as traitors those who might do so. The prime minister might even be readying an early election campaign on a platform of patriotism versus treason. Such demagoguery might win the Likud some additional votes, but it would do irreparable damage to Israel's democracy, and it would do nothing to avert a major crisis in relations with Israel's most important friend and ally.

'AL HAMISHMAR writes that no one says that the policy outlined by President Reagan should be accepted as holy writ. The President himself is probably aware that in negotiations there might be changes in various areas. But every sane man, who has a realistic view, cannot but see in the President's plan a fair basis for solving the most complicated problems. The anger of the Likud toward the Alignment resembles, according to the paper, the custom in tzarist Russia, when after every failure of the regime the multitudes were incited with the slogan "Beat the Jew and save Russia, because the Jew is to blame for all the troubles."

AL ANBA' thinks that what we have in front of us is a tempest in a teapot, and that the chances of the Reagan plan being carried out are not much greater than zero.

Other 'Sources' Comment

TA021250 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 Sep 82 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Tuvya Mendelson]

[Excerpt] Contrary to the reactions by senior political figures, who described President Reagan's message to Prime Minister Begin as a total departure from the Camp David accords, other sources said last night that the ideas in the message did contain elements that do not conflict with the Camp David accords.

These other sources said that Reagan's message presents the U.S. administration's position on those parts of the Camp David accords whose interpretation continues to be disputed.

Authoritative sources evaluated yesterday that the stands presented in the message to Begin are acceptable to King Husayn, whom the U.S. would like to include in the peace process. In this context a senior Cabinet minister said yesterday that the impression gained from reading the ideas raised in the President's message is that the message is the result of negotiations conducted by the Americans with "another element" with whom they had reached an agreement.

A senior political source said yesterday that the possibility should not be excluded that during the negotiations for the PLO's evacuation from west Beirut some promise had been made by the Americans to the Arab countries, and that the President's message is the result.

REPORTAGE ON 'SECOND' REAGAN MESSAGE TO BEGIN

Attempt To 'Soften' First Message

TA021211 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 2 Sep 82 pp 1, 15

[Report by Yosef Harif and Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpt] In a second message from U.S. President Ronald Reagan to Prime Minister Begin -- the second within 24 hours -- Reagan wants to soften the harsh impression left by reports on the contents of the first message and the sharp Israeli reactions immediately following the first message. However, the main points included in the second message, which arrived last night, are compatible with the announcement of the new U.S. policy contained in President Reagan's nationwide speech early this morning, Israel time.

In the message delivered by Samuel Lewis, U.S. ambassor to Israel, President Reagan promises that the United States will not surprise Israel with its moves and will bring them to Israel's attention in advance. It seems that this is why the President sent the message -- in order to illustrate that, before delivering the speech to the nation, he had brought its contents to Israel's knowledge. The message also indicated that in the nationwide speech several changes were introduced to the remarks in the first message to Begin, delivered the day before yesterday.

Political circles in Jerusalem interpret President Reagan's dramatic move as a conscious attempt to dissipate the bitterness created in Israel following the first Reagan message and to influence, as much as possible, the decisions that are going to be made in today's Cabinet meeting.

These assessments regarding the U.S. President's move rely on a paragraph in the message reaching the prime minister last night. Together with the statement that the United States sees the settlement of the Palestinian issue as being the establishment of self-rule in the West Bank, which will be linked to Jordan, Reagan repeats that the United States is opposed to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Political observers in Jerusalem believe that this is nothing other than semantics and that self-rule is tantamount to a Palestinian state, especially when it does not have any link to Israel.

The reactions in Jerusalem this morning to President Reagan's speech were harsh, although his remarks did not include any "surprises" beyond the "bomb" he dropped in his first message to the prime minister.

In his message of reply to the message received from Reagan yesterday, Begin wrote that Israel rejects outright the President's ideas on the establishment and nature of autonomy and views them as a deviation from the Camp David accords which may harm Israel's security and existence.

More Details on Reagan Letter

TA021526 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1515 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] Our political correspondent has learned additional details about President Reagan's letter to the prime minister. Alongside his demands of Israel, Reagan wrote that he will oppose a total severance of the West Bank from Israel, and he added that in his view there is no need to dismantle the existing settlements.

Reagan also wrote that self-determination for the Palestinians does not mean an independent state, but rather the granting to them of the possibility to determine their future within the Camp David framework. Government sources have told our political correspondent that these points are marginal as compared with the seriousness of the other principles formulated by the U.S. President.

Begin Request Rejected

TA030836 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Sep 82 p 1

["Exclusive" report from Washington by Gid'on Samet]

[Text] Washington, 2 Sep -- In his second letter yesterday, addressed to the prime minister, President Reagan turned down Mr Begin's request that he deliver the speech scheduled for that evening at a later date.

Sources [not further described] said that the administration feared that the prime minister "might do what he actually did this morning," that is, reject the President's suggestions at the Cabinet session. In such a case, the speech would have lost some of its weight and dramatic significance and nature, and would have required a reaction to the Israeli move.

Reagan 'To Adhere' to Positions

TA021537 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1510 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer -- recorded]

[Excerpt] Education Minister Zvulun Hammer said at the Cabinet meeting that sometimes the impression given is that the United States wants to see Israel weak and thus support its security. Minister Hammer called for the rejection of the practical clauses in the U.S. plan and to continue implementing the government's plans to expand settlements in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza.

As for Prime Minister Begin's reply to President Reagan, Mr Begin analyzes at length the contradictions between the U.S. positions and the Camp David accords, and this has already been made public. It should be emphasized that the U.S. President has already made it clear to the prime minister several times in recent days, that he does not intend to retract his plan. Ambassador Lewis told Begin -- and I am quoting -- that Ronald Reagan will adhere to his positions.

In the message the U.S. President sent to the prime minister last night, the President expressed disappointment with the initial reactions in Israel to his plan. He dwells on the need to make intensive efforts to lead to comprehensive peace and makes it clear he will not retract his plan despite Israel's protests. President Reagan wrote further that Israel's security will be achieved in the future by additional peace agreements with the Arab countries. Naturally the well-known line about the United States' commitment to Israel's security also appears.

If we sum up things, it is possible to say that Israel totally rejects the U.S. plan and is ready to enter a confrontation with the United States on this issue. However, the United States demonstrates no less strong adherence to its new plan.

In the coming days an attempt will be made to coordinate positions with the Labor Party, although the government does not believe that it will be possible to consolidate a joint plan of action this time.

Next week the Knesset will hold a political debate and then we will know what will happen

It should be mentioned that President Reagan decided to advance his speech on his Middle East program due to the advance publication of the details of the plan on Voice of Israel. This was reported to the prime minister by U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis.

Sharon Comments

TA022018 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Ari'el Sharon interviewed by Yoram Ronen during tour of the Kfir production line on 2 September -- videotaped]

[Excerpt] [Ronen] From the Kfir line, U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger boarded a helicopter which flew him to Judaea and Samaria. Weinberger demanded that no journalists go along on this tour, during which the defense minister explained why Israel could not give up Judaea and Samaria. What would Ari'el Sharon tell Caspar Weinberger near the hills of Samaria?

[Sharon] There you do not have to say anything. One of the greatest advantages there is that all you have to do is look. When you stand there, it is like on the Golan Heights. There you do not have to explain. There you are spared having to make explanations.

[Question] All this is against the background of the last letter from President Reagan and the doubts we have concerning the U.S. position on Judaea and Samaria. Will this not be raised [in your talk with Weinberger]?

[Answer] We have no doubts. We have a clear, unequivocal position and no one can undermine our position on the matter of the security importance of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. We have a clear position concerning the matters of Israel's security. These matters are Israel's exclusive responsibility. We hold the United States in great esteem; we have great esteem for the U.S. President, for U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger. However, when it comes to questions of security and existence, the only ones who can decide things in these matters are us.

REPORTAGE ON REACTION TO REAGAN INITIATIVE

Peres Views

TA021752 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1720 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] The Alignment views the U.S. position submitted by the U.S. President as a basis for dialogue with the United States. The Alignment believes the positive clauses of the U.S. plan should be adopted and that the disputed ones should be discussed. The Labor Party's bureau made a decision on this a short while ago at the end of a special discussion it held in Tel Aviv on the U.S. proposal. Our correspondent for party affairs Ammon Nadav reports from the Labor Party center in Tel Aviv:

[Nadav -- live] Well, the news conference now underway with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres, and the discussion held by the Labor Party bureau a short while ago, indicate the decisive importance attached to the U.S. proposal here. Over the last 48 hours a significant change has occurred, Peres said. Jordan has expressed its agreement to join the peace process. Some of the remarks by President Reagan are not far from the political position of the Labor Party. This from Shim'on Peres.

What is included in the Labor Party bureau's decision? The Alignment views the recent developments as an opportunity for the solution of the Palestinian problem and the continuation of the peace process. The disagreements between the Alignment and the Likud are not about the U.S. proposal but about the future of the State of Israel.

How does Shim'on Peres respond to the claim that it was he who contributed to the ideas the Americans raised over the last 24 hours? Let us hear the Labor Party chairman's remarks:

[Begin recording] [Nadav] Mr Peres, it is being said that the U.S. proposal is in fact based on the talk you held last month with President Reagan.

[Peres] I have not invented anything for the Alignment after my conversation with Reagan. I explained to President Reagan and to Shultz and Weinberger the Alignment's position which is a legal, public, overt and well-known position, a position which we are proud of and which is in the best interests of Israel. We think that the Likud's position may harm Israel. This is nothing secret. I want to tell you that I do not intend to deny such a charge. If indeed within a few hours it is possible to influence the entire U.S. administration, then I am proud of this.

[Question] Did you then already find any signs of U.S. readiness to go in this direction?

[Answer] In my talks with Reagan and Shultz I learned a number of important things. I started all the talks by saying that the Alignment rejects a Palestinian state and rejects negotiations with the PLO, so that there are no misunderstandings on these two points. I also said that we insist on defensible borders, no return to the 1967 borders. The impression I received from the talks I held was as follows:

A. Reagan, as well as Shultz and Weinberger, expressed a position according to which there is a very serious chance that Jordan will join the negotiations.

B. Second, they believe the Arabs today are prepared to conduct peace negotiations although they are not sure these negotiations will yield fruit.

C. Third, this was especially said to me by Shultz,who expressed confidence it was possible to reach a permanent political settlement with the Arabs and Jordan with something less than a Palestinian state. They also told me that their position on the PLO has not changed and likewise their position on the Camp David matter [has not changed]. [end recording]

[Nadav] In conclusion, against the background of expected U.S. pressures, a new internal argument is expected in Israel between the coalition and the opposition.

To quote further from the decisions by the Labor Party bureau this evening -- the Alignment warned against any Israeli move which may disrupt the dialogue between us and the United States and harm its good offices for the sake of peace.

Further Peres Remarks

TA022054 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres interviewed by Nisim Mish'al -- live in the studio]

[Excerpts] [Question] Mr Peres, in the final analysis, does the Alignment support the proposed U.S. positions?

[Answer] I do not compare it with the Rogers plan, like the prime minister does. There is a world of a difference between the Rogers plan and this plan. Moreover, there are people who say that Begin's autonomy plan will lead to a Palestinian state. There are dangers on every side. To get down to brass tacks, I think that the U.S. proposal can serve as a basis for negotiations between us and the Americans. I see in President Reagan's proposals positive things; I see things that must be insisted upon and must be opposed -- as with everything.

[Question] For example, Mr Peres, I would like to check with you in regard to settlements, would the Alignment support the stopping of settlement, as the U.S. President is proposing?

[Answer] The Alignment is not about to change its positions because of the U.S. proposal. What has happened, in fact, is that in the U.S. proposals there are parts that corroborate the Alignment's position, including the matter of settlements. We are against the stopping of settlements in all areas, but we propose that Israel willingly not build settlements in densely-populated Arab areas.

[Question] You also do not accept the prime minister's statement that the plan constitutes a danger to Israel's very existence?

[Answer] No, not at all. First of all, it is not a plan, but rather a statement of U.S. positions. It is true that some of the things there are hard, but there are also important things. Mr Reagan opposes a Palestinian state; he opposes negotiations with the PLO. That is not written in the Camp David accords -- opposition to a Palestinian state. He opposes a return to the 1967 borders. He supports secure and defensible borders. And the main thing, I see for Israel, is Jordan's joining the negotiations.

Mr Begin has always derided us for proposing territorial compromise. He said: Where are your Jordanians? Here, there are Jordanians; they are ready to discuss a plan -- a plan that is not exactly theirs, it is not exactly ours either. I believe that in the West Bank there is a choice -- either the PLO or Jordan. Since I reject the PLO, I support a link with Jordan as stipulated in the autonomy plan.

[Question] In conclusion, Mr Peres, another quote of the prime minister's. He said that support for the proposed plan is a sort of betrayal of the Jewish people. What is your view?

[Answer] My view is one of total rejection of this remark. Whoever does not say amen after Mr Begin is a traitor; he is guilty. What is the meaning of this? I think that Mr Begin's plan is full of dangers for the State of Israel as a Jewish and Zionist state in the future. So, will I call him a traitor? Say that he is a traitor? What sort of method is that? Whoever does not agree with him is immediately a traitor and guilty. He has an idea. It has not been at all shown that his views are correct: not in the matter of the memorandum of understanding, not concerning the withdrawal from the Sinai, and not concerning a long list of other matters. He has an idea; we have an idea. He will present his idea, we will present ours. He will not call us traitors; we will not call him a traitor.

Begin's Office Reacts

TA030622 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 3 Sep 82

[Text] Officials in the prime minister's office denied that Menahem Begin said yesterday that whoever accepts the Reagan plan deserves to be called a traitor. According to his office, at the Cabinet meeting yesterday Menahem Begin said that after the Rogers plan was proposed, Golda Me'ir, who was then prime minister, said that any government accepting such a plan would have betrayed its people. He added that the stands brought up in the Reagan plan can be called Rogers Plan B and we, in the Cabinet, will not betray our people but will be faithful to them.

Labor Party Rejects

TA021234 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Excerpt] The Labor Party reaction committee has charged the Cabinet with demagoguery for trying to blacken its name for holding it responsible for the Reagan plan on autonomy. The committee issued a statement today saying that the Alignment policy on the administered territories has been known for years and the party continues to stand by it.

Shinuy Movement Reacts

TA021927 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Excerpt] The Shinuy Movement's council says it views favorably the U.S. initiative and believes that rejecting the proposal outright is a grave mistake. In its opinion, it will aggravate the confrontation with the United States and will bring about damage and further isolation for Israel.

MK Zeigerman Comments

TA022007 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] Likud MK Dror Zeigerman believes Israel can accept some of the Reagan plan. According to him, the statement that the United States is opposed to the establishment of a Palestinian state and the U.S. intention to bring the Palestinians and Jordan to the negotiating table are positive points.

Frayj on 'Positive Aspects'

TA021829 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1809 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] One of the first to react to the Reagan initiative in the territories was Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj. He spoke with reporter Jerry Cheslow:

[Begin Frayj recording] It has some positive aspects. It calls for a halt to Jewish settlement, for the involvement of the Arabs of east Jerusalem in any additional talks; it calls for the involvement of Jordan and says that there should be a linkage between the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Jordan. I think these are all positive aspects, and I hope our Arab brothers and governments will study this speech very carefully and should not rush to reject it out of hand.

The negative element is that he opposes the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, and that really it is up to the people who live in these areas and to the Palestinians to decide for themsleves what they want. Secondly, he stressed much the value of security for Israel, but he did not say one single word about security for the Palestinian people. He is calling for recognition by the Arab side of Israel's right to exist as a sovereign state. I agree with that, but on a reciprocal, mutual and simultaneous basis. In other words, Israel will also have to recognize the political and national rights of the Palestinian people. [end recording]

West Bank Figures React

TA022021 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Excerpts] The reaction to the Reagan plan in the territories today was one of suspicion. Political figures in Judaea and Samaria told our correspondent that the United States always rushes to react after crises as it did with the Rogers plan.

Figures identified as supporters of Jordan refused to react before the television camera, saying they first want to see the text of the U.S. plan. Nevertheless, these figures said that the trend of the plan is positive. Our correspondent in the territories Rafiq Halabi reports on the atmosphere in Judaea and Samaria today:

[Begin Halabi videotape] The Arab press had not yet had time to react to the Reagan plan but there is ferment here. The Reagan plan came against the background of confusion and extreme moods ranging from hope to despair following the Lebanon war.

The mayors, including those who were removed from their positions, keep quiet. The large municipalities are run by Israelis. The municipalities, which had been a political symbol in the region, have been deprived of this power. The Reagan plan talks of self-administration in the territories but it is nevertheless received with suspicion.

Ash-Shak'ah from Nabulus, as well as Karim Khalaf from Ramallah and At-Tawil from Al-Birah reject the plan. Most of the Palestinians talk of declaration of self-determination. It seems that the PLO's evacuation from Beirut has not in the meantime changed their basic positions. There is a fierce struggle here between the supporters of the area village leagues and their opponents. The supporters accept the autonomy plan. Reagan is encouraging the opponents.

This is the village of Jaba' in the Hanin District. Two nights ago an 18-year-old youth was murdered here. He was the brother of Mukhtar Ahmad Mustafa, a member of the area village leagues.

There is a feeling of fear at the mourners' house. The area village leagues know that there is a great deal of opposition in the territories to their activity. The representatives of the area village leagues united and are now studying the autonomy idea. The Reagan plan will make things difficult for them and will strengthen the opponents who are the majority. Those we defined as Jordan supporters in the past, have not yet adopted a position. Husayn has not yet declared a position, but there is no doubt that only a few here support the Reagan declaration. As we were told by a well-known notable in Nabulus -- let the United States and Israel wrestle. It is about time we watch this show. The Palestinian issue, they say, has emerged victorious from the war in Lebanon. [end videotape]

Further West Bank Reaction

TA031016 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Sep 82 p 1

[Report by David Richardson]

[Excerpt] Initially dismissed by some of the traditional pro-PLO factions in the West Bank as no more than "a storm in a teacup" -- as the east Jerusalem daily ASH-SHA'B wrote in its editorial yesterday -- the American proposals were later welcomed by a recently dismissed West Bank mayor as "a slight change in the American position that may be indicative of some good intentions."

Another former mayor, Rashad ash-Shawwa of Gaza, was reluctant to react without seeing the full text, but he said last night that we was "encouraged to a certain extent" by the American proposals.

Much of the response in the West Bank appears to be hinging on what posture the scattered PLO leadership will adopt, plus the suddenly strengthened status of Jordan in view of the U.S. endorsement of a future link to the Hashemite Kingdom.

The largest east Jerusalem daily AL-QUDS, which normally adopts a moderate and pro-Jordanian line, called on the U.S. administration not to succumb to the pressure of the pro-Israel lobby in pursuing its policy.

The leading moderate leader in the territories, Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, could not be reached for comment last night. However, Arab sources in east Jerusalem reported that he had welcomed the American proposals.

POST SAYS NOTHING 'SURPRISING' IN U.S. PLAN

TA030809 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Sep 82 p 2

[News analysis by Yosef Go'el]

[Text] Washington -- A close reading of President Ronald Reagan's statement on U.S. policy towards the Arab-Israel dispute shows that there is little new or surprising in it.

The desire to find an acceptable balance between Israeli and Arab interests, the sensitivity to balancing the code words that have broader implications to the Israelis, the Arabs and the Palestinians and the assumption that if only the correct formula is found a comprehensive peace will be found hiding just around the corner can be traced from UN Resolution 242, through the Rogers plan, the policies of former Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger and Cyrus Vance and the Camp David agreements, in their American interpretation.

A senior State Department official said yesterday that the U.S. had been vitally interested in reviving the autonomy talks. However, it had postponed acting twice: once last March so as not to prejudice Israel's full withdrawal from Sinai, and the second time when Operation Peace for Galilee began on June 6. This assessment seems reasonable considering the unveiling of the new policy on the very day that the PLO expulsion from Beirut was completed.

Actually Reagan was scheduled to go on the air with his statement only last night. The leaking of the main points in Reagan's letter to Prime Minister Menahem Begin raised fears here that Israel could take unexpectedly violent steps, such as announcing the formal annexation of all the territories, as had occurred in the Golan Heights annexation last December. It was felt that a full public unveiling of the President's plan could serve to assuage some of Israel's anger.

One of the causes for concern in this diplomatic coup was that Israel, alone, was kept toally in the dark. This was true of Begin, who received his first intimation of what was impending in the letter from Reagan earlier this week.

Israel Ambassador Moshe Arens also had no idea of what was brewing when he left for Israel on Tuesday to accompany Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger on his visit.

Is there anything to the Israeli argument that the newly enunciated policy goes counter to what was agreed at Camp David in 1978?

Yes. The U.S. has decided to give up its role as a neutral third party and to take an active role in the "peace process." One should remember that this is a repetition of the developments that took place between Anwar as-Sadat's coming to Jerusalem in November 1977 and the Camp David breakthrough, which in a way constituted an agreement imposed on the two parties by former President Jimmy Carter.

The Americans are taking great pains to emphasize that the new policy lines are entirely within the framework of the Camp David accords. Even Carter went on television yesterday to make the point that his successor's statement was "entirely consistent" with those agreements.

What is generally forgotten in these arguments is that the Palestinian parts of the Camp David agreements were purposely left vague and even included diametrically opposed appendices and interpretations on the Palestinian issue, on which the parties had decided to agree to disagree.

U.S. officials make no secret of their feeling, however, that Israel has purposely been dragging its feet on the autonomy talks, which have been moribund since they started more than three years ago. The implication is that if Israel could flout what the U.S. understood to be the meaning of those agreements, then the U.S. could play the same game.

The Likud leadership may consider calling early elections next year, with the future of Eretz Yisra'el being the key issue, in order to strengthen its mandate in the political struggle against Washington's new Middle East peace moves, some political observers believed yesterday.

Although the question has not come up yet in any forum, the government's determination to reject U.S. President Ronald Reagan's initiative outright could -- these observers said -- lead to a decision to go to the polls over the question of the future of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District, despite the fact that the government coalition enjoys a clear majority in the Knesset.

They recalled in this connection that the Labour Alignment under the late Prime Minister Golda Me'ir gave an undertaking to the National Religious Party, which was then its major coalition partner, to call early elections if the government should have to decide on the future status of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza in the context of a peace settlement.

Should the Likud indeed decide to go ahead with such an idea, the election will probably take place next spring.

POLL SHOWS MORE SUPPORT TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE

TA030811 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Sep 82 pp 1, 2

[Text] Tel Aviv -- The percentage of Israelis willing to make territorial compromises in Judaea and Samaria in return for a peace treaty with Jordan has grown since Operation Peace for Galilee.

Also, more would attach conditions to an increase in Jewish settlements in Judaea, Samaria and the Golan Heights.

There is a sharp distinction between the positions of pro-Likud and pro-Labour people -- the former adhere to their traditionally uncompromising stand, while the latter support their party's platform favouring territorial concessions.

These are the findings of the latest JERUSALEM POST poll conducted by the Modi'in Ezrahi Research Institute among a representative sample of 1,937 adults. The survey was conducted in the third week of August, when the fighting around Beirut was coming to an end.

Question. Are you for a peace agreement with Jordan that will require Israel to abandon parts of Judaea and Samaria?

	August 82 Percent	June 82 Percent	May 82 Percent
No, not one inch	46.8	53.1	58.3
Yes, certain parts	40.2	35.9	29.3
Yes, all of it except for east Jerusalem	9.0	7.4	7.3
Yes, all of it including east Jerusalem	2.0	1.6	1.9
Undecided	1.8	2.0	3.2

While noting that the overwhelming majority wished to hold on to parts of Judaea and Samaria, institute Director Sara Shemer pointed to the decrease of those opposing all compromise and a parallel increase of those amenable to concessions. She found that the centre was being strengthened at the expense of the hawkish extreme, with the dovish camp remaining unchanged.

Analysing the respondents' position according to party affinity, Shemer found the following:

	Pro-Likud	Pro-Labour
No, not one inch	49.3	29.7
Yes, certain parts	32.4	50.8
Yes, all of it except east Jerusalem	6.4	15.0
Yes, all of it including east Jerusalem	0.4	2.8
Undecided	1.5	1.7

Question. Do you think we should continue to establish settlements in Judaea, Samaria and the Golan Heights?

	August 82	Sept 81
No	21.8	23.1
Yes, unconditionally	41.7	50.2
Yes, only in certain parts	13.8	5.7
Yes, but not at expense of education and social services	5.6	5.3
Yes, but not against world opinion	0.6	2.7
Yes, but not at expense of autonomy talks	1.7	0.6
Yes, other conditions	11.7	7.2
Undecided	3.1	5.2

REPORTAGE ON DEFENSE SECRETARY WEINBERGER'S VISIT

Sharon Comments

TA021231 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1155 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Excerpts] U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger was received today with a military ceremony at the Defense Ministry. Before noon, Weinberger visited the Merkava tank production line and heard explanations from Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon and Reserve Maj Gen Yisra'el Tal. The visiting secretary was very impressed by what he saw. This is reported by our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal.

[Begin recording with Sharon remarks apparently recorded earlier] [Tal] The U.S. secretary of defense is now visiting a plant which assembles the Merkava tank. He is listening mainly to technical explanations by Reserve Maj Gen Yisra'el Tal. While walking through the plant, we also spoke with the defense minister:

[Sharon] After noting the problems with which we are faced and the answers Israel has to these problems, we are now showing him Israel's technological ability in terms of the defense industry. Surely the Merkava tank, which is one of the best -- if not the best -- tanks in the world, is certainly an issue which is very interesting to the U.S. visitors.

It is undoubtedly one of our greatest achievements, as was proved in the last war. We presented Israel's problems. We did not ask for anything -- it is not that type of visit. We presented Israel's problems. We presented our security conception which gives an answer to Israel's security problems, to the three security issues: Arab terrorism, the Arab confrontation states and the Soviet danger. We presented the problems; we presented our replies and we are now showing Israel's ability in the operational field which has been proven many times and in the field of arms production.

Holds Talks with Begin

TA031110 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Sep 82 pp 1, 2

[Report by Mati Golan]

[Excerpts] At his meeting with Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger yesterday, Mr Begin said that the Camp David accords exist, over which all the parties toiled very hard, examining each word very carefully. It is inconceivable, Begin said, that the United States should come and turn the whole thing upside down. He emphasized that the accords stipulate that the United States has the role of mediator in the context of the autonomy, and it cannot alter written agreements.

The prime minister expressed himself very bitterly in reaction to President Reagan's opening remarks in his address to the nation yesterday. Begin said that Reagan began by praising envoy Philip Habib for having done a courageous job in Lebanon. Not one word, the prime minister complained, was said of Israel's contribution toward the solution of the problem in Lebanon.

In regard to Lebanon, the prime minister said that Israel entered that country for the purpose of defending its inhabitants. He stressed that it was a defensive war and not an invasion, as certain Western elements have termed it. It was the IDF that brought about the expulsion of the terrorists from Lebanon, and with all due respect to the job Philip Habib did, there is room to mention Israel's role in it. He expressed surprise that the United States failed to grasp this.

The prime minister apparently repeated in his conversation with Weinberger the parable he raised at the Cabinet session. He said that in the 1950's there was a widespread story in Poland that the Russians were taking all the wheat from the Poles, whereas they were also taking all their coal from the Poles. The reference is the following: "We gave a clean, free and pro-Western Lebanon to the United States, while the United States wants to take away from us Judaea, Samaria, the Gaza Strip and also our past, present and future, and our security."

Weinberger did not say much and was on the defensive. In explaining President Reagan's message, he said that the U.S. had positive intentions. He noted that the import of the message was to boost the autonomy talks. He also said that the message was aimed at granting a new impetus to the autonomy talks. [as published] He mentioned the fact that the Arab countries had pressured the United States in this regard, with Egypt playing an especially active role in this. The U.S. secretary of defense emphasized that Reagan's message in no way constituted a dictate. Rather, it presented a flexible position, one that can be discussed.

Further Details of Talks

TA031115 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 Sep 82 pp 1, 3

[Report by Eli'ezer Strauch]

[Excerpts] In his meeting with U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger yesterday, the prime minister spoke very emotionally when expressing his disappointment with the message he received from the U.S. President and his televised speech.

Weinberger maintained a conciliatory and cool tone all the time, and repeated over and over again the U.S. administration's commitment to Israel's security.

Addressing Weinberger and Lewis, Begin reviewed each and every item in the message, explaining at great length how he thinks they conflict with the Camp David accords. Begin pointed out that in the Camp David accords there is nothing to prohibit the establishment of settlements, and there is nothing in them that says that security matters in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza would not be given to Israel.

The prime minister argued that in many clauses of his new suggestions, Reagan says "the exact opposite" of what was stipulated in the Camp David agreements.

Referring to the suggestion that the autonomy plan be carried out under the aegis of Jordan's King Husayn, Menahem Begin said: It would be easy for you to imagine what the scenario will be: Husayn will invite Yasir 'Arafat and take him on a tour on board a plane he will personally fly over Judaea and Samaria. He will right then and there appoint him king of Palestine, going by the well-known model established by the British, who put his grandfather on the throne.

In another part of the conversation, the prime minister contended: "What President Reagan is proposing is a sure guarantee of the establishment of a Palestinian state, even if this is not what he had in mind. After all, the murderers' organization (the PLO) succeeded twice in establishing a country within a country -- once in Jordan and another time in Lebanon. What could prevent him from turning a self-administration led by himself into an independent country?"

Weinberger explained that the United States was trying to exploit the "momentum" created as a result of the success of Philip Habib's mission to promote initiatives that would advance peace in the region. In his opinion, the Arab countries are presently prepared to discuss peaceful solutions, and this should be taken advantage of.

The prime minister answered firmly: "It is not the job of a mediator to raise ideas that contradict signed agreements. If Egypt had done so, I would have understood this. Then I would have approached the United States, asking for its services as a mediator. But when the United States adopts its own position, and on a matter that jeopardizes our security, it disqualifies itself from playing the role of a broker."

BEGIN MEETS LEBANON'S AL-JUMAYYIL 1 SEP

TA031032 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 Sep 82 p 1

[Report by Arye Tzimuqi]

[Text] Two nights ago, Prime Minister Menahem Begin conferred secretly with Lebanon's president-elect, Bashir al-Jumayyil.

The meeting, which lasted about 4 hours, was also attended by Defense Minister Sharon and Foreign Minister Shamir. It began at 2300 and Begin only returned to his hotel in Nahariyya at 0300 the next morning.

At yesterday's Cabinet session, Begin refrained from telling the ministers about the specifics of the conversation, but noted that he "did not sleep all night." During the meeting, Al-Jumayyil made it clear that he has no intention of turning his back on Israel, which has helped liberate Beirut from the terrorists.

Al-Jumayyil refused to make a commitment as to when he would sign a peace treaty with Israel, but he agreed with the prime minister that permanent representations of both countries be established even before the peace agreement is signed.

Al-Jumayyil said he was prepared to establish normal relations forthwith, especially in the economic sphere and regarding tourism relations.

Al-Jumayyil said that before signing a peace agreement with Israel, he would be interested in guaranteeing the establishment of a stable government in Lebanon, and stabilizing his administration. Nonetheless, he turned down demands by Lebanese-Muslim leaders, whom he is interested in incorporating into his government, to undertake not signing a peace [treaty] with Israel as a precondition for their joining the Government of Lebanon.

ISRAEL 'TO INSIST' ON REUNIFICATION OF BEIRUT

TA011220 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 1 Sep 82 p 1

[Report by the military correspondent]

[Excerpt] DAVAR has learned that Israel will insist that the city be reunified within a reasonable period of time after the completion of the terrorists' evacuation from west Beirut. The roadblocks separating the two parts of the city should similarly be removed.

The Israeli position, as presented during the talks with Philip Habib, and as accepted by him, is that within 2 weeks of the end of the terrorists' evacuation from the city, the Lebanese Army should take full control of west Beirut, including the roadblocks erected in its midst.

4,000 'TERRORISTS' SAID LEFT IN WEST BEIRUT

TA021244 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 2 Sep 82 p 1

[Report by Baruch Hame'iri]

[Text] There are actually about 4,000 terrorists left in west Beirut, although officially it was reported that the "last of the terrorists" has left the city. This assessment was reported last night by reliable sources.

These terrorists are hiding now in West Beirut under different identities, and some of them were issued Lebanese identification cards. Some of the terrorists were left in west Beirut in place of women and children who were evacuated from Beirut disguised as terrorists.

Many of those left in west Beirut are from the upper and middle echelons of the PLO; their aim is to establish a nucleus for hostile activity on Lebanese territory and in the future to act against targets in Israel.

A few of the remaining PLO men who were left are supporters of the leftist Druze leader Walid Junblatt.

BEGIN TO ADDRESS SOVIET JEWRY CONVENTION IN PARIS

TA030848 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 3 Sep 82 p 1

[Report from France by A. Yafe]

[Text] Paris -- The third convention on Soviet Jewry will open on 24 October in Versailles with an address by French Premier Pierre Mauroy, and will end with a speech by Begin. This was decided by the preparatory committee that convened in Paris.

Sources in the committee reported some consideration was given to the suggestion that the conference not be held in Paris as a result of the tension in Israeli-French relations and in connection with doubts as to the French ability to provide security measures for the 1,000 Jewish delegates. However, the Israelis have reported that Begin is interested in having the conference in Paris, and the French Government has decided to supply security measures. The sources reported Begin is expected to be received by President Mitterrand and other French administration officials during his stay in France. Shim'on Peres is also expected to participate in the conference.

HISTADRUT CALLS OFF WEEKEND AIRPORT STRIKE

TA021501 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] The Histadrut action headquarters decided a few minutes ago to postpone all protest moves that had been planned for the Sabbath, following the High Court of Justice's decision preventing the government for the time being from grounding El Al planes on the Sabbath and holidays.

Our correspondent Moshe Nestelbaum reports the headquarters is now sending telegrams to the work committees that were to have taken part in the strike as a token of solidarity with the El Al workers' protest strike. The headquarters is informing them the decision to strike Ben-Gurion Airport from the advent of the Sabbath has been canceled. Among the work committees to have participated in the strike were those of the airport's customs workers; airport authority workers, Paz company workers, the management of civil aviation, marine officers and rated seamen.

Transportation Minister Hayim Corfu has said the government is determined to carry out its decision to ground El Al planes on the Sabbath and holidays, but it will obey the temporary injunction issued by the High Court. He said the state attorney general is being asked to answer the court's questions most promptly.

ALGERIA

COMMENTARY VIEWS REAGAN'S 'PACIFICATION PLAN'

LD022219 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The new American ideas on the prospects for peace in the Middle East, ambitiously called a pacification plan, are not in reality likely to reassure the Arab world.

The first point to note is that the famous Jordanian option has been taken up by Washington; the second is that the PLO is not mentioned at all. What also stands out is that the United States is now convinced that the Beirut affair has fundamentally demonstrated that a military solution to the Palestinian issue, that is, the physical elimination of its representatives, organized around the PLO, is something quite impossible. Thus, there remains a political solution, the ultimate aim of which, as it is formulated by the U.S. President, is to leave out the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinians, but which may have the merit of considering that nothing can be done to seek a durable peace without the Palestinians, that is, the PLO, even if the U.S. President did not make a clear reference to this organization, the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

Then in sum, this idea is not new since it recalls the homeland -- the word used by former President Jimmy Carter who, as if by coincidence, apparently called on President Reagan yesterday to launch a peace initiative in the Middle East. Peace initiative, this expression is a little surprising coming from a regime that gave unconditional support to Israel, even in the event of aggression against Arab land and genocide against a people. It will be recalled that at no time, did President Reagan mention an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

BENDJEDID CHAIRS FLN POLITICAL BUREAU MEETING

LD012234 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Sep 82

[Text] The FLN Central Committee Political Bureau met this afternoon at the presidential headquarters under the chairmanship of President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and FLN secretary general. During this meeting, the Political Bureau discussed the situation arising in the Arab homeland in the light of the latest developments of the Palestinian question.

BITAT RECEIVES ANGOLAN PARLIAMENTARIANS 23 AUG

PM011355 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 24 Aug 82 p 3

[APS report]

[Text] Rabah Bitat, FLN Political Bureau member and National People's Assembly speaker, received the Angolan parliamentary delegation headed by Casimirio Sergio Franco, second secretary of the Angolan People's Assembly, which is on an official visit to Algeria at the invitation of the National People's Assembly, at the National People's Assembly building yesterday morning.

Africa, particularly the repeated South African attacks on Angola, the Middle East, following the imperialist-Zionist attack on the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, and northwest Africa were the subjects of a lengthy exchange of views. Both sides reasserted the need to strengthen cooperation and active solidarity between the countries in their joint struggle against imperialism and the various forms of colonialsim and for a united and independent Africa.

Following the conversation, a working meeting took place between the Angolan parliamentary delegation and a National People's Assembly delegation headed by Deputy Speaker Lemkami Mohamed. Reports on legislative experiences in Algeria and Angola and on respective economic and social development policies were presented by the two delegation leaders.

The Angolan parliamentary delegation will visit a number of economic projects and the Algiers fair durings its stay in Algeria.

LIBYA

JANA CITES REAGAN TV SPEECH ON MIDDLE EAST

LD022238 Tripoli JANA in English 1920 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] Washington, Dhulqidah 14, September 2, Jamahiriyah News Agency -- Ronald Reagan, the American President, announced that the USA is opposed to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state over the occupied West Bank and Gaza. He added that Camp David accords and the Security Council Resolution No. 242 providing for the non-political rights of the Palestinian refugees constitute the cornerstone in the policy to be pursued by his administration in the next stage of the conflict in the Arab region.

Reagan suggested the establishment of a Palestinian self-rule government over the West Bank and Gaza on condition that it is linked to Jordan. Concerning occupied Jerusalem, Reagan said Jerusalem should be united but its final status should be decided by negotiations between the Arabs and Zionists.

Reagan continued in the speech made today and broadcast on American television networks, that the USA will oppose any proposal from any party at any stage of the negotiations if such proposal threatens the security of the Zionist entity. He described this position as a solid commitment representing his own personal commitment as well.

The American President expressed his personal admiration of the policy of aggression pursued by the Zionist enemy. He said he personally admires the wars waged by the Zionists during the last 34 years against the Arab nation.

Reagan opened his speech by saying that this day is worthy of our pride as it registers the end of the evacuation of the PLO from Lebanon. Reagan said: "I am very pleased the U.S. Marines carried out the eviction of the Palestinians from Beirut successfully." He said: "The PLO in the area is determined by two factors, one is the strategic importance of the area to the USA and the second is the U.S. commitment to Israel's security."

He added, "The Palestinians and the Arabs should recognize the Zionist entity." This statement states clearly the future policy of the USA in the Arab region. He only mentioned the Palestinian people's rights in the context of the autonomy rule.

MOROCCO

BOUCETTA EXPRESSES OPTIMISM FOR FES SUMMIT

LD021050 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1010 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] Jidda, 2 Sep (SPA) -- M'hamed Boucetta, Moroccan minister of state in charge of foreign affairs has affirmed that the Arab peace plan put forward by the Saudi Arabian Kingdom will head the list of topics to be discussed at the Arab summit conference to be held shortly. Now that all Arab countries that participated in the Arab foreign ministers conference have approved the summit's agenda.

In his statement to the Saudi paper 'UKAZ, published today, Boucetta expressed great optimism about the chances of success at the conference. He said: All indications point to this, especially as the Arab kings and presidents fully realize the importance of the success of this conference.

He pointed out that Lebanon asked for postponement of the conference because of the transfer of the Presidency from President Ilyas Sarkis to President-elect Bashir al-Jumayyil. He said that the problem will be solved by having the two presidents attend, in accordance with constitutional tradition in Lebanon.

On Egypt's participation in the Arab summit, Boucetta pointed out that, so far, the question of Egypt's participation has not been decided and can be decided by the Arab kings and presidents during their conferences.

In another statement to the Saudi newspaper AL-BILAD, Boucetta expressed optimism about the success of the conference which, he said, stems from the true and sincere desire the Arab leaders have in light of recent events in the Arab arena. He said these events have created an atmosphere which has made Arabs realize the gravity of their responsibility as a result of the current conditions now threatening everyone.

He pointed out that the efforts being exerted by the kingdom under the leadership of King Fahd, as well as the efforts exerted by other Arab leaders will, in the end, create a favorable atmosphere for holding an Arab conference to discuss all the problems from which the Arab nation suffers and to find solutions to them. He said the Arab peace plan has become the center of world attention because it embodies solutions for many outstanding matters so that peace and security will reign.

Boucetta said that, during his recent visit to the kingdom, he discussed the framework and the principles within which the Arab summit conference will be held. He pointed out that consultations are continuing between Morocco and the kingdom and there is complete identity of views between them.

LIBERIAN PRESIDENT ARRIVES IN FES 1 SEP

LD011416 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Sep 82

[Text] Liberian President Samuel Doe arrived a short while ago in Fes onboard a private aircraft. At Fes-Seis airport, he was met by Prime Minister Maata Bouabid; Minister of Information, Youth and Sports, Dr Abdelwahad Belkeziz; Minister of Transportation Mansouri Benali; Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Abdelhaq Tazi; senior officers of the Royal Armed Forces; the mayor and the governorate's secretary general.

After inspecting a formation of the Royal Armed Forces, the Liberian president traveled to his residence in Fes. He is scheduled to tour the city this evening.

SUDAN

EGYPT'S ABU GHAZALAH ARRIVES WITH MUBARAK MESSAGE

JN021145 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1040 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Sep (SUNA) -- Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, arrived in Khartoum this morning on a 1-day visit during which he will convey to President Ja'far Numayri a message from Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on Egypt's international moves. This comes within the framework of continued consultations between the two countries.

Meets With Numayri

JN021500 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Sep (SUNA) -- President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri today received a message from his brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. It was delivered by Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, Egyptian deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production.

Dr Baha' ad-Din Muhammad Idris, Sudanese minister at the president's office, said the message dealt with latest developments in the new integration process between the two fraternal countries. It also dealt with the situation in the Arab region and latest developments in the Palestinian cause in light of the comprehensive solution proposed for it. The message also dealt with the OAU's future and the efforts being exerted to preserve its unity and to avoid its fragmentation.

President Numayri has asked Abu Ghazalah to convey a similar message to President Mubarak. It contained the president's replies to the points mentioned in President Mubarak's message.

Makes Statement

NC021312 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Sep (MENA) -- Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, has stated that the national security of Egypt and Sudan depends on two main facts: balance and deterrence.

In an exclusive statement to a MENA correspondent in Khartoum, Abu Ghazalah said the concept of balance is clear and aims at achieving military balance in the area to establish stability. He said the events in Lebanon revealed that this balance was not available in Lebanon. This encouraged Israel to invade.

Abu Ghazalah said the aim of deterrence is for Egypt and Sudan to have a deterrent force to achieve a joint strategy in military force. He added that the concept of deterrence requires that the adversary, or the other party, is convinced that you intend to use military force if national security is endangered.

Abu Ghazalah said the conditions of Arab disintegration and the absence of a unity of aim and honest coordination encouraged Israel to invade Lebanon. He pointed out that it is an exaggeration to describe Israel as a military giant.

On the strategy of Egypt and Sudan, Abu Ghazalah stressed that the Horn of Africa is a serious threat to Egyptian and Sudanese security, particularly in the Red Sea. He said Egypt and Sudan are both interested in having the Red Sea a zone of peace to ensure navigation routes. He said stability in Africa concerns us. He said Egypt offers Somalia all possible aid.

Speaking about integration between Egypt and Sudan, Abu Ghazalah said integration must be practical and not theoretical. He said the first step in integration must be the issuing of one legislation in Egypt and Sudan and that Egyptian and Sudanese citizens must have the same rights before the law. He said the integration must be on both summit and base levels. He added that the future of the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples lies in integration between them because both have the same fate and goals.

Abu Ghazalah further said: We will expand our joint military maneuvers in the future and both military commands are studying plans on this issue. He pointed out that the threats facing the area are not only aimed at Egypt and Sudan but the entire Arab world.

Abu Ghazalah emphasized that the Arab strategy lies in two basic circles: The first extends from the Arab East from Iraq to the Gulf to the Nile Valley and the second extends from the Maghreb to the Nile Valley Basin. He pointed out that Egypt and Sudan are the connecting links between the two circles. He said Egypt and Sudan need stability for sufficient time to achieve economic construction because the economic and military aspects cannot be separated. He added: We have no ambitions in Libya or any other country. We seek stability and are not seeking to provoke disturbances. Concluding his statement, he said that at the end of this month and early in October he will visit Italy and Austria.

Departs 2 September

JN021612 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 2 Sep (SUNA) -- Field Marshal'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, Egyptian deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, left Khartoum for home this afternoon following a brief visit during which he conveyed a message to President Ja'far Numayri, dealing with the continued consultation between the two countries on various international situations.

PALESTINIANS WELCOMED IN 'ATBARAH 2 SEPTEMBER

JN021543 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] 'Atbarah, Northern Province -- 2 Sep (SUNA) -- The Palestinian fighters arrived in 'Atbarah today amid a mammoth popular and official reception. They were received by 'Abdallah Ahmad 'Abdallah, governor of the Northern Province, the ministers in the province and trade union leaders. 'Abdallah welcomed the fighters on behalf of the people in the Northern Province and of Sudan as a whole. Referring to the circumstances that forced the Palestinian fighters to leave Beirut, 'Abdallah stressed the Arab nation's need for sound planning and long-term strategy against the expansionist nature of the Zionist enemy.

The commander of the Palestinian forces, Col 'Abd ar-Razzaq 'Abd al-Hamid, praised President Numayri's readiness to receive the Palestinian fighters in Sudan. He said the presence of these fighters in Sudan is a continuation of the struggle to realize a just solution for the Palestinian cause which has won international recognition.

Before reaching 'Atbarah, the train carrying the fighters was greeted in Jubayt, Hayya and Hudi.

TUNISIA

ES-SEBSI: REAGAN STATEMENTS REPRESENT PROGRESS

LD022214 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] Replying to a question from TAP on President Reagan's statements concerning the Palestinian problem, Beji Caid es-Sebsi, minister of foreign affairs, summarized the first reaction of Tunisia President Reagan's latest statements concerning the Palestinian question obviously represent progress in comparison with previous U.S. positions, especially those carried in the Camp David agreements.

According to these statements, the territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip are no longer considered Israeli territories, and Israeli sovereignty can no longer include these territories. This is in addition to the call by the United States for an immediate freeze on Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. Finally, Jerusalem is no longer considered the eternal capital of the State of Israel, but the situation of this city, which must remain unified, will be the subject of negotiations.

At any rate, the PLO, the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people, is the only one qualified to express its position on this new U.S. plan; and facts justify the remark that U.S. policy seems to be seeking to shake Israeli domination, which is in itself a good result.

PALESTINIAN CAUSE DISCUSSED WITH USSR DELEGATION

LD011540 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1030 GMT 1 Sep 82

[Text] [no dateline as received] Developments in the Middle East, particularly those concerning the Palestinian problem and the attitude of the Soviet Union and Tunisia toward it, and cooperation between the National Assembly and the USSR Supreme Soviet were the central issues at the working session held yesterday morning at the National Assembly between Soviet and Tunisian parliamentary delegations led by Mahmoud Messadi, speaker of the National Assembly, and Petr Strautmanis, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Mahmoud Messadi explained on this occasion that Tunisia's attitude to all international problems particuarly the Palestinian problem, is derived from the policy of President Habib Bourguiba, which is based on international legitimacy through the implementation of UN resolutions such as the resolution calling for the partition of Palestine, the establishment of a special order concerning Jerusalem and the creation of a Palestinian state in accordance with the resolution issued in 1947.

He explained that the Arab peoples concerned with what is happening in the Arab arena have begun to draw lessons from what has happened in Lebanon and that official attitudes will be more [words indistinct] toward the Lebanese-Palestinian problem was characterized by being lukewarm in its reaction and lacking any firm initiative. He pointed out in this context: We know that the Middle East region is disputed by the two giants and in order to guarantee the interest of this region we believe the two powers should be balanced because any imbalance, Israel's usurpation of Arab territories and the Palestinian people remaining without a state, will not bring peace to this region.

The speaker expressed confidence that the visit of the Soviet parliamentary delegation to Tunisia is a new link in the chain of mutual visits with the aim of [word indistinct] of visits, explaining viewpoints, creating a more favorable climate for bilateral cooperation, especially in the economic field, which has continued to develop, and consolidating relations of friendship on the basis of equality and mutual respect.

Petr Strautmanis, in his turn, confirmed the interest of the Soviet Union in the Middle East problem which, he said, is an essential problem, and we are doing all we can to find a solution, to achieve peace and to avoid the outbreak of a world war which could be the last one in the history of mankind. In this context, he called for the consolidation of the peace front [words indistinct] pointed out that what happened in Lebanon is a result of Camp David and the American-Israeli alliance which are aimed at splitting Arab ranks, because this unity is a danger to the Zionist entity.

Regarding the Soviet move, the deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet confirmed that his country will spare no efforts in the presentation of new proposals for a solution to the problem, in addition to continuing the major assistance provided to the Palestinian people. He said: If the Arab countries are unable to reach agreement among themselves and come together to confront the Israeli challenge, how can the USSR provide necessary backing? In this situation, we appreciate the initiatives of President Bourguiba because all previous initiatives have not come up with a result up to now. We believe the most effective way is the continuation of the uprising in the occupied territories and continued support and backing for the Palestinian cause by all Arab and peace-loving countries.

After the two sides recorded the two countries' full agreement about the justice of the Palestinian cause and the need to support it further, the deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet invited Mahmoud Messadi to visit the USSR.

Bourguiba Meets With Delegation

LD011722 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Sep 82

[Text] This morning at the Republic Palace in Carthage, President Habib Bourguiba received Petr Strautmanis, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and the parliamentary delegation accompanying him in the presence of Mahmoud Messadi, speaker of the National Assembly, and the Tunisian ambassador in Moscow and the Soviet Ambassador in Tunis.

Following the meeting, Strautmanis said he and the accompanying delegation had the honor of meeting President Habib Bourguiba, adding that the Soviet people have appreciation and respect for the great struggler who led the Tunisian liberation struggle and who is now leading independent Tunisia along the road of construction. The Soviet official explained that the talks dealt with cooperation between the two countries and that he acquainted the head of state with the Soviet leaders' evaluation of the current situation in the Middle East. After pointing to the fruitful cooperation between the two countries in various fields, Strautmanis expressed the hope that this cooperation will be consolidated in the interest of the two fraternal peoples.

Also, the deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet extended to the president, President Brezhnev's wishes for good health and long life. He also wished the president, the premier and the National Assembly speaker happiness and success and wished Tunisia prosperity.

Soviets Depart 1 September

LD012048 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Sep 82

[Text] The Soviet parliamentary delegation left Tunisia this afternoon. The head of the delegation said the struggle by President Habib Bourguiba not only serves the interest of the Tunisian people but contributes to establishing peace in the world, hence, the important initiative by his excellency in finding a solution to the Middle East problem and defending the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

MZALI 'FAIRLY OPTIMISTIC' ON FES SUMMIT

NC311239 Paris AFP in English 1152 GMT 31 Aug 82

[Text] Tunis, Aug 31 (AFP) -- The Middle East crisis is really "the crisis of Arab leaders," according to Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali.

Mr Mzali said in an interview with the Saudi magazine AL-YAMAMAH, published here today, that he was only "fairly optimistic" about the chance of success of next Monday's Arab summit in Fes, "because there is considerable antagonism among Arab regimes."

He said that if the summit failed, "Arab people would be convinced that some of their leaders are not equal to their responsibilities. They play at lions with their oppressed people and behave like mice with Israel."

Mr Mzali noted that the Arab leadership "must absolutely be given a new impetus."

He said that during his visit to Washington last spring, he noted that the United States was "disposed to recognise" the Palestine Liberation Organisation. "Documents were exchanged on [words indistinct]," he said.

Mr Mzali said that the Palestinian struggle would continue on two fronts: "in Palestine and on the diplomatic level."

MZALI RECEIVES ZAIRIAN SPECIAL ENVOY 23 AUG

PM311445 Tunis L'ACTION in French 24 Aug 82 p 4

[Text] Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali received yesterday afternoon at the government palace in the Kasbah Lengema Dulia Yubasah Makanga, secretary of state for foreign affairs and international cooperation in the Zaire Government and special envoy of the Zairian head of state to President Habib Bourguiba.

At the conclusion of the audience, the Zairian envoy told TAP that he had conveyed a message from Mobuto to "his great brother President Bourguiba."

He added that he also discussed with Mohamed Mzali matters of a bilateral nature and of common interest, as well as international problems -- particularly, the OAU crisis and Namibia.

In connection with the situation in the Middle East -- another issue raised during the conversation -- Mr Lengema pointed out that his country has always recognized the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative and also recognizes the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to a homeland.

Zaire, he concluded, currently Africa's representative on the Security Council, has voted in favor of the resolutions concerning the Lebanese problem adopted by that council.

The audience was attended by the secretary of state for foreign affairs, Mahmoud Mestiri; the Tunisian ambassador in Kinshasa, Othman Laouani; and the charge d'affaires at the Zairian Embassy in Tunis.

CAMEROON

CHAD'S HABRE HAILS ASSISTANCE, DEPARTS

AB021933 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] Chadian leader Hissein Habre has hailed Cameroon's consistent assistance to uproot hardship in the war-torn Chad. The Chadian leader told Radio Cameroon at the end of a 24-hour visit in Cameroon that he has come to seek further assistance for the consolidation of peace and the reconstruction of Chad.

In their talks, the Cameroonian and Chadian leaders reviewed the current situation in Chad in the light of talks toward national reconciliation. President Habre hoped that the reconciliation process would work out national peace given the present cease-fire and the absence of foreign troops in most of Chad. He said his country was now experiencing relative security for the first time since independence 17 years ago. President Habre ruled out the possibility of a federation in Chad, saying such a system of government would plunge the country into further division.

The Chadian leader, who left Yaounde today at the end of his visit, has already addressed a message of gratitude to President Ahmadou Ahidjo, the Cameroon Government and people. The Chadian leader expressed profound gratitude for the warm and fraternal reception he and his delegation enjoyed in Cameroon. He alluded to the coincidence between his visit and the celebrations marking the 16th anniversary of the Cameroon National Union Party. The Chadian leader lauded the great achievement of the party in the areas of national unity and other national development options. The Chadian leader expressed satisfaction with his talks with his Cameroonian counterpart and hoped that their discussions would further consolidate the existing friendship and fraternal cooperation between Cameroon and Chad.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

KOLINGBA ADDRESSES NATION ON FIRST ANNIVERSARY

AB012119 Paris AFP in French 1545 GMT 1 Sep 82

[Text] Bangui, 1 Sep (AFP) -- Infantrymen, motorcyclists, tanks and armored vehicles of the national army participated in a march on Wednesday in Bangui, celebrating the first anniversary of the accession to power of the CAR Army. In a lengthy address to the nation, head of state Gen Andre Kolingba presented a balance sheet for the past year.

On Wednesday morning, CAR forces marched past Martyrs Avenue in Bangui after the head of state drove down the avenue in an open car. He was cheered by the crowd and greeted with a 21-gun salute.

CAR Air Force units flew over the crowd at a low altitude, thus causing some curiousity on the part of the numerous spectators.

In his address to the nation, broadcast on Wednesday, General Kolingba announced that "the crucial date" of 1985 will see "the first stone laid for the progressive setting up of institutions that will lead to the return to normal political life." The year 1985 will mark the end of the first phase of our national program of recovery and action," the CAR head of state added.

By this date, the budget will have been balanced and exports and imports will have reached the same level, General Kolingba stated. He said, however, that the level of productive investment in both private and public sectors will have reached the threshold, which will permit growth of real per capita income. "By 1985, this revenue will begin to increase instead of dropping as it is now."

After 1 year in office the Military Committee for National Recovery [CMRN] the CAR head of state believes that it is not yet time to issue a "bulletin of victory." "The struggle has just begun and battle is far from being won." he added.

Observers note that tremendous progress has been made in balancing the budget. The budget deficit exceeded 10 billion CFA francs in 1981. However before the end of 1982, it could be reduced to about 7.5 billion CFA francs. To obtain this result, the CMRN had to bring order to the financial administration, to combat fraud and embezzlement and to pursue debtors. It also had to reduce to the bare minimum the country's expenses, to fight waste and to ask civil servants to make a special contribution.

President Kolingba announced that the purge in the civil service will continue rigorously. He said: "This is with a view to making it a respectable body, truly at the service of the people and also to lighten the financial burden of those incompetent and dishonest civil servants who are no credit to the country." The head of state regretted that there are still too many cases of "careless and useless expenditures on luxuries." To balance the budget, without which, the president declared, there could be "no independence and no development," financial austerity will be maintained rigorously in 1983 and 1984.

Touching on the deep crisis that has hit the CAR, he said the multiparty system was characterized by a long period of political and economic disorder. "Some people wanted to make a caricature of democracy by trying to impose their views by blind force; while others, solely guided by their personal interests, betrayed the nation by trying to destroy the authority of the state."

General Kolingba also pointed out that "the CMRN is not against the parties nor is it their equal." Its dealing with nations is based on definite and contractual obligations," he stated. "A real democracy should first listen to issues that touch deeply on the people," President Kolingba concluded.

CONGO

PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE POSTPONES ELECTIONS

AB021005 Paris AFP in French 0800 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] Brazzaville, 2 Sep (AFP) -- The ordinary session of the Congolese Labor Party Central Committee, which was presided over by Head of State Denis Sassou-Nguesso, ended in Brazzaville on Tuesday, it was learned yesterday. The Central Committee decided to postpone the "elections for the renewal of the people's power until 1984," after the party's ordinary congress.

Within the framework of the country's 5-year development plan, the Central Committee decided on the resumption of two work sessions (morning and afternoon) in the public service. On the international level, the Central Committee denounced the "subversive activities of the imperialists, especially the Israeli aggression in Lebanon and South Africa's aggression against the "frontline states" (Zimbabwe, Zambia, Tanzania, Angola, Malawi and Mozambique. The Central Committee reaffirmed its "support to and recognition of the people of the SDAR."

ZAIRE

'CONTINUING PURGE' IN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT NOTED

AB010956 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 1 Sep 82

[Text] The purge is continuing within the primary and secondary education department. A total of 107 officials serving in Kinshasa has just been fired in accordance with a departmental decree signed on 30 August. These dismissals are not unwarranted. The officials affected were accused of being in possession of forged school certificates.

GHANA

RAWLINGS SPEAKS IN KUMASI 28 AUG, 1 SEP

Teachers Conference

AB290928 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 29 Aug 82

[Text] The chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, has said that neither Ghana nor any country in the Third World can be really independent unless the minds of the people are freed from mental enslavement. He said the peoples of the Third World have been miseducated for so long that the true development of their intellect, imagination and creativity has been [word indistinct].

Addressing the national delegates conference of the Ghana National Association of Teachers [GNAT] in Kumasi yesterday, the chairman regretted that the minds of Ghanaians and other Third World peoples have been brainwashed on conditions to appreciate foreign cultures and values so much so that they have become almost entirely dependent on the Western cultures. He called on teachers, who he said have great moral authority, to use their unique position to ensure the success of the people's struggle. He asked all Ghanaians not to betray the young generations, but to guarantee them a dignity of life and of the future.

The secretary for information, Mr Ato Austin, declared that the entire African Continent is in flames and Ghana is being paralyzed so that she cannot assume her leadership role to free the continent. He said the gigantic economic problem facing the country demands massive food production. He stressed that Ghanaians can feed themselves if they organize, mobilize and produce.

A lecturer at the University of Ghana, Mr Tsatsu Tsikata, pointed out that the education system has created a highly educated but parasitic breed of people alienated from reality. He described the present situation in the country as unbearable and distressing. He said the condition is desperate and critical and called for deep soul-searching and action. The 31 December Revolution, Mr Tsatsu Tsikata said, has initiated a process aimed at creating a new nation with a just society and human dignity, as well as breaking the stranglehold of traditional bankruptcies and prejudices. He made it plain that Ghana can never earn enough foreign exchange to import all her needs. The sure way is self-reliance and creativity.

A member of the National Defense Committee, Mr Mustafa Moctar, exhorted Ghanaians not to submit but fight, and not to capitulate but resist. He lamented at domestication of the intellect of Ghanaians and called for self-infused motivation and readiness for what he called a long hard march. Mr Moctar urged teachers to fire the mentality of students, open their eyes and give impetus to their imagination and creativity.

The asantehene [traditional leader], Otumfuo Poku Ware, said he holds the teaching profession in the highest esteem. He asked the GNAT to help find a solution to the exodus of teachers.

The national president of the GNAT, Mr Akwei Bado, admitted that the present educational system is unjust, discriminatory and class-oriented. The GNAT, he said, is aware of these weaknesses and failings and its members will do their best to meet the aspirations of the revolution. He asked the government to consult teachers regularly on all matters concerning education.

The secretary for education, Miss Ama-Attah Aidoo, regretted that teachers are compelled to leave the country by their harsh and unjust situation to find themselves (?again). She said now is the time for all to rededicate themselves to work hard in the interest of the nation.

The conference is being attended by delegates from Nigeria, the Ivory Coast, Niger, Sierra Leone, the USSR and Sweden.

University Forum

AB012037 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 1 Sep 82

[Text] The chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC], Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, has emphasized that government is no longer alien to the people, but it has become, as he put it, the voice and thoughts of the people. Ghanaians must therefore convert the freedom ushered in by the 31 December revolution into a creative reality. The PNDC chairman was speaking at a forum at the University of Science and Technology in Kumasi. He referred to the mismanagement and the depletion of Ghana's coffers by past governments and said the PNDC is doing the best under the circumstances to find solutions to the nation's problems.

Flight Lieutenant Rawlings declared that violence will not work. The greatest thing the government is doing is to transform the soldiers and people to understand what is going on. He replied to the demand to the National Union of Ghana Students [NUGS] that the compulsory military training during national service should be suspended, while cadet corps in secondary schools are improved. The PNDC chairman said all that he is asking for, as he put it, is democratization of violence, adding "when I pull a gun and you also pull one, then we shall sit down and talk."

A lecturer at the University of Ghana, Mr Tsatsu Tsikata, told the students that much is expected of them because much has been given to them. He referred to the collapsed economy and said proverty, sacrifice and deprivation are among the costs that have to be borne to set it right. Mr Tsikata said the wealth of the society is not to be toyed with by a few people. He regretted that people have abandoned the spirit of sacrifices and scientific inquiry to that of subsistence. Mr Tsikata said if the academics in the country want to stay away from active involvement in the revolution, it will be difficult to achieve the desired maximum acceleration and success.

The president of the NUGS, Mr Amoah Larbi, said the proposed 2-year national service should be suspended until the present 1-year program has been reorganized for the students to be more involved.

AUSTIN SAYS WORKERS TO ASSIST FARMERS ON FRIDAYS

AB302020 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 30 Aug 82

[Text] The secretary for information, Mr Ato Austin, today appealed to Ghanaians to toughen themselves for harder times ahead because the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] has no magic to immediately change the present difficult situation. He said in the days ahead, the government would adopt very harsh and tough measures to salvage the economy. Mr Ato Austin was speaking in Kumasi at the launching of a 10-day publicity campaign in Ashanti to educate the people about the realities of the country's plight and what is expected of every individual.

He said there would be drastic pruning of the personnel of all ministries and state organizations and the redundant labor deployed to produce more food which can save the country. He announced that soon, every Friday will be declared mass productivity day and all workers, including members of the PNDC, will go to the land and assist in food production.

Mr Ato Austin said even if half of the country's population (?is dead), Ghana will be good with the remaining patriotic citizens. He said the nation has been terribly hit by recession in the Western countries, and Ghana is so deeply indebted that foreign creditors have seized about 60 million cedis transferred overseas for the purchase of imports. Ghana's traditional exports, he said, are no longer able to fetch enough foreign exchange. Mr Ato Austin said the PNDC is determined to make the country rely mostly on its own resources for production. He said it is unfortunate that a small country like Ghana should have 32 motor vehicle assembly plants which are entirely dependent on imported items.

On the people's power and their participation in the decisionmaking process, he said institutions would be created to function with the people themselves at the helm of affairs. The people's tribunals, Mr Ato Austin said, would operate on very simple procedures and the citizens are free to attend them.

In a brief statement, the Ashanti regional secretary of Farmers' Council, Mr Kwesi Senkyere, said the PNDC has demonstrated beyond all reasonable doubt that it is a government of farmers, miners and workers who are the suffering masses. Since the overthrow of Dr Kwame Nkrumah, he said, it is only the PNDC which has been able to inspire confidence in farmers and also succeeded in bringing them together under one umbrella.

The PNDC secretary fo Ashanti, Mr Kwame Kessie, who chaired the function, said it should now be clear to all that the only way to salvation lies in self-reliance, hard work and increased food production.

FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUES NONALIGNED DAY STATEMENT

AB010917 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 1 Sep 82

[Text] Ghana has reaffirmed her commitment to the principles of the Nonaligned Movement because the movement has a major role not only to play as a peaceseeker but also as a catalyst for reducing international tension.

In a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to mark the second nonaligned day, which falls today, the government said the movement's tragedy is that it is itself undergoing very serious strains and stresses which threaten its effectiveness and survival. The statement said the survey of the contemporary world scene reveals a disturbing drift toward the unhealthy rivalries of the cold war era, confrontations between the big powers and between the smaller ones acting as their proxies. It noted that disarmament has suffered severe reverses and more lethal weapons continue to be developed.

In the Middle East, there has been a most callous and wanton destruction of life and property that cannot be justified on any ground. And in South Africa, the racist minority regime continues its obnoxious policy of apartheid in utter disregard of all international opinion. Also, efforts to restructure the existing international economic order to make it more equitable and avoid friction between the rich and poor countries have been frustrated by the self-centered interests of the industrialized countries.

It is in this atmosphere, the statement said, that member nations of the Nonaligned Movement should focus attention on the dangers facing them and the world at large, and renew their determination to maintain their unity so that together they can strive to attain a peaceful world order based on justice and equality.

TIMES CONCERNED OVER U.S. SENATE DECLARATION

AB010951 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 1 Sep 82

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The GHANAIAN TIMES expresses serious concern over the declaration reportedly approved by the U.S. Senate that the United States will use arms if necessary to stop what the declaration described as Cuban aggression. The paper says this declaration is based on falsehood and ill motive. Still, this is a real threat to world peace and pro-tends serious dangers for the political stability of progressive African governments.

The TIMES says the present situation in southern Africa shows that if Cuban troops had not come to halt and contain racist South Africa's invasion of Angola, South Africa would have overrun Angola and gone ahead to destabilize other African countries all with the support of the United States.

The TIMES therefore calls on all U.S. allies and African governments to use all the power of persuasion at their command to prevail upon President Reagan to delete the declaration from a $9 billion appropriation bill before signing it into law.

BRIEFS

CHINESE RICE PROJECT -- The first phase of the $23-million Afife irrigation project has been handed over to the Ghana Government. The project, which was started in 1979 with assistance of Chinese experts, can produce about 6,000 tons of rice annually. Speaking at the official handing over ceremony at Afife, in the Volta region, the chief of defense staff and member of the Provisional National Defense Council, Brigadier Nundo-Mensah, announced that the second phase of the project, which involves the rehabilitation of a dam built by Soviet experts, the construction of about a 10-hectare fish pond and the reclamation of additional hectares of land, will soon be started with the assistance of other Chinese experts. [Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 29 Aug 82 AB]

SOVIET MEDICAL AID -- The Soviet Embassy in Ghana has presented four tons of assorted drugs and medical equipment worth about $25,000 to the Ministry of Health. The drugs and equip-ment were donated by the Soviet Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to the Ghana Red Cross Society. The items were handed over to the deputy secretary for health, Dr Doadu, at Tema today by the charge d'affaires of the Soviet Embassy, Mr (Maslov). He hoped the distribution of the drugs would be fairly spread throughout the country. The deputy secretary observed that the Soviet Union has shown a lot of good will to Ghanaians since the revolution. This is the second time that Ghana has received drug aid from the Soviet Union this year. The first was in February and it was 10 tons -- worth about $75,000. [Text] [Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 26 Aug 82 AB]

GUINEA

FORMER MINISTER'S DEATH SENTENCE COMMUTED

AB011701 Paris AFP in English 1614 GMT 1 Sep 82

[Text] Dakar, Senegal, Sept. 1 (AFP) -- The Guinean Government has commuted the death sentence passed on former Minister Abraham Kabassan Keita to 15 years hard labour, accord-ing to the latest edition of the Guinean official gazette to reach here.

Mr Keita, a former navy lieutenant commander, was public works minister prior to his sacking last March for embezzlement. He was sentenced to death for his crime at a trial in May.

A decree published in the latest gazette said that all Mr Keita's "present and future wealth" was forfeited until he had paid back the 32.9 million Guinean sylis (about 1.4 million dollars) involved in the fraud.

Six other people given hard labour terms at the same time as the former minister for similar offences have been amnestied. [as received]

LIBERIA

STUDENTS BOYCOTT CLASSES FOR SECOND DAY

AB022058 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] For the second consecutive day, no classes have been held at the University of Liberia. Yesterday, after the students refused to enter classes in protest for better transportation facilities to and from their Cendel campus, authorities of the university issued a release suspending classes and further indicating the availability of two additional buses for use today.

However, today, the university issued a second release announcing the suspension of classes in both the main campus and Cendel. According to today's release signed by University President Dr (Mel Edneburg Tubamn), who returned home yesterday, the suspension was being continued to provide more opportunity for university authorities to look into the problem which has arisen regarding the transporting of students to and from the Cendel campus. The release said the Government of Liberia, in anticipation of a better economic situation, has provided assurances and its preparedness to cooperate with the university administration in regard to the Cendel (?transfer). Unfortunately, the release added, the economic situat in the country was not sufficiently improved to allow government to fulfill its commitments. The release said that from 30 April to 1 September this year, the university has used more thatn $27,000 in subsidizing students' transportation to and from Cendel.

Meanwhile, university students today blocked the main entrance to the main campus of the University in Monrovia. In a release, reportedly issued by the students [word indistinct] at the university, an appeal was made to all students to remain vigilant until their demands are met. They also called on students to continue to boycott classes until the administration provides sufficient buses, allows for 50 percent reduction on textbooks and the reinstitution of the scholarship scheme of the University of Liberia.

Chief of Staff Statement

AB022245 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Statement by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lt Col Henry Duba on 2 September in Monrovia -- recorded]

[Text] My fellow citizens, once again we have come to appeal to you to join us in developing a Liberia that we all can be proud of. Yesterday, the students of the University of Liberia staged a boycott of classes on the grounds that they were not provided transportation to take them to and from school. They specifically mentioned that despite all appeals, they still had not received the two buses promised them by the head of state through the General Services Agency. As a result of this, they published their demands in a paper which ended with these words: "Move on to decisive battle, a lutta continual!"

In our efforts to ease the situation, the Government of Liberia today presented the students with six buses instead of two as was demanded. Surprisedly, this gesture provided no apparent solution to the problem as the only response we received from the students was an ultimatum that they must have eight buses or else.

Let us reflect briefly on some problems with these very students in the past to which Liberia in particular and the world for that matter can attest that we have done all in our power to ensure that students' needs are met as far as our meager resources can permit. Yet we get in return insults and the most uncompromising attitude which is a clear evidence of ingratitude and a motive that could be interpreted as individuals having no real interest in the welfare of their country, which could be branded as troublemakers. Let me say emphatically that this state of affairs cannot be allowed to continue. We must reemphasize that students must be tolerant and desist challenging the authority of government. Government's compassionate actions must not be misconstrued as fear or weakness. We must reemphasize that students must be tolerant and desist challenging the authority of government. Government's compassionate actions must not be misconstrued as fear or weakness. We must take a stand now and in the future. Instructors of universities, parents and guardians must do their part in the development of the minds of their students and children. The actions of the students as explained are clear indication of a challenge to government and a test of the strength of the (?army). Lest we forget, this is a military government and our duties must be upheld and respected. We therefore would like to note that this and any other strikes anticipated must be halted with immediate effect or else the government will have no other alternative than to take measures necessary to ensure that peace and security are maintained, and this is our obligation to the people of Liberia.

As such, we hereby direct that no student or students will be allowed to disrupt the reception plans for the head of state on tomorrow, 3 September 1982. Any student caught in (?this) violation of this directive will be immediately apprehended according to law. Discipline must be inculcated in the minds of our youth and discipline is really a training process that develops self-control, character, courtesy and personal discipline.

DOE SENDS MESSAGE TO NEW LEBANESE PRESIDENT

AB012146 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 1 Sep 82

[Text] The Liberian leader has sent a congratulatory message to the newly-elected president of Lebanon, Mr Bashir al-Jumayyil. In the extended message, Chairman Doe, on behalf of himself and the people of Liberia, wished the Lebanese President-elect God's choicest blessings and continuing progress in the reconstruction of the Republic of Lebanon. Chairman Doe hoped that during the period of President al-Jumayyil's tenure of office, the already friendly ties existing between Liberia and Lebanon would be further cemented for mutual understanding and fruitful cooperation.

ANGOLA

RSA PLANES DROP PAMPHLETS ON CUNENE, HUILA

AB021340 Luanda ANGOP in French 1230 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] Luanda, 2 Sep (ANGOP) -- The Angolan defense minister announced yesterday that the South African Army, which illegally occupies Namibia, is maintaining its concentration of troops at the border with Cunene Province. The continuous movement of South African troops toward the Angolan border appears to mean that they are preparing for another far-reaching aggression.

The defense minister recently denounced the presence of about 30,000 South African soldiers near the Namibian border, supported by heavy artillery, tanks and planes. The minister at the same time pointed out the danger that these new military incursions pose for Angola.

Meanwhile, South African planes dropped pamphlets on positions controlled by the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola in Cunene and Huila Provinces, with the aim of intimidating the Angolan soldiers with threats and moral offenses.

The Angolan defense minister said 5,500 troops of the regular South African Army continue to occupy part of Cuene Province.

SAVIMBI SAYS UNITA WILL RELEASE PRISONERS

AB021000 Paris AFP in English 0940 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] Pretoria, 2 Sep (AFP) -- The Angolan guerrilla movement UNITA will unconditionally release 15 prisoners from five countries in the near future, UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi has told a freelance Italian journalist.

The journalist, Giancarlo Coccia, who visited sectors in southern Angola controlled by the South African-backed guerrillas, said here today he met all 15 prisoners, including a Swiss International Red Cross nurse. The nurse, Marie-Josee Burnier, 26, was captured last May in an ambush near Lubango in southern Angola. She said the other prisoners -- six Portuguese, one Argentine, three Brazilians and four Spaniards -- are being held captive in a camp about 450 km (200 miles) from the Namibian border, the journalist said. Mr Coccia said Miss Burnier said the prisoners had been well-treated.

SOUTH AFRICA

P. BOTHA: COMMUNIST VICTORY CANNOT BE TOLERATED

MB021029 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 0600 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] Prime Minister P.W. Botha says a communist victory in South-West Africa cannot be tolerated. In his opening address at the Free State congress of the National Party in Bloemfontein last night, Botha said such a victory will be against South Africa's and southernAfrica's interests.

He said he wants to emphasize that it is in southern Africa's interests that no settlement in South-West Africa can be reached, for which South Africa is prepared, before the Cubans leave Angola. He placed particular emphasis on the total onslaught being waged against South Africa, in the political, economic and military fields, and said that the will of the South African people is being undermined by insidious propaganda. He said he therefore finds it astonishing that terrorist organizations are issuing books containing quotations from the South Africa media which, through press reports, are furthering the aims of these organizations.

Mr Botha said there is a total lack of resistance to communism in the Free World today as well as no strategy to counter the total onslaught. This is reflected in America's attitude toward its European allies and the situation in Africa. Another example is the United Nations, an organization that is allowed to adopt 42 resolutions against South Africa, a country which resists communism.

Mr Botha also referred to the onslaught in the form of permissiveness found throughout the world. He said there are certain things no Christian can tolerate. In South Africa the state cannot stand alone in the fight against permissiveness. It requires the assistance of the family, the community, as well as church and cultural organizations.

COMMENTARY ON WILLINGNESS TO EXTEND FOREIGN AID

LD011816 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 1 Sep 82

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] At a time when propaganda on South Africa's so-called destabilizing role in southern Africa is being distributed worldwide, news has been received of the South African Government agreeing to have the export levy on maize and maize products to Lesotho. The step has been taken by South Africa in order to assist Lesotho, which is experiencing serious economic difficulties. It has also been taken despite the fact that South Africa and Lesotho have had serious differences of opinion over various issues. But South Africa does not see her way clear to taking revenge but rather to helping her neighbor.

The overall South African philosophy is that stability is essential in the neighboring states, seeing that this promotes stability at home. For this reason, South African economic aid is given to all countries that request it, particularly where it is designed to help other countries to help themselves.

Two very good examples of this South African philosophy in practice are the assistance which South Africa gives to Mozambique and the continued trade between South Africa and Zimbabwe. Both these countries have adopted Marxist policies. Both these countries support, either verbally and morally -- or materially in the case of Mozambique -- the terrorist movements operating against South Africa, yet this does not influence South African willingness to be associated with these countries and to assist them. South Africa, the most advanced country on the continent, is more than willing to act as a catalyst for the development of her neighbors.

'GUERRILLA OFFENSIVE' REPORTED IN MOZAMBIQUE

LD021602 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 2 Sep 82

[Text] The Mozambique National Resistance [MNR] is now reported to be operating north of the Zambezi River in what is considered to be the biggest guerrilla offensive in the war against Frelimo.

Reports from Maputo say 500 to 1,000 men of the MNR have moved across the Zambezi River into the Morummbala district, close to the Malawi border. They are reported to have attacked a state farm and destroyed tractors and implements.

In Lisbon, a spokesman for the MNR said the six Bulgarians they were holding were considered to be prisoners of war. They would be exchanged for MNR members being held in Maputo through the help of the International Red Cross.

ZIMBABWE

MUGABE ORDERS TWO WHITE FARMERS RELEASED

AB311504 Paris AFP in English 1438 GMT 31 Aug 82

[Text] Harare, Aug 31 (AFP) -- Zimbabwe Prime Minister Robert Mugabe moved today to end a long, bitter legal wrangle by freeing two white brothers from detention after what reliable sources said was the personal intervention of two white Cabinet ministers.

Alan and Noel York, members of a prominent farming family from Figtree in far southwestern Zimbabwe, had been in custody almost continuously since late January. They had been held since May despite an acquittal by a magistrate's court on a charge of illegal arms possession, through a series of maneuvers by the Home Affairs (Interior) Ministry that the nation's courts had ruled at first were illegal and, then, just last week, legal.

More recently, the Yorks' lawyers said, the state had argued that they were in some way linked the killers of prominent black South African nationalist Joe Gqabi in Harare last year.

Reliable sources said the chain of events leading to their release began last week when Agriculture Minister Denis Norman, a former head of the Commercial Farmers' Union (CFU) representing large-scale white farmers, and Minister of State for the Public Service Chris Andersen met some of the Yorks' farming colleagues at Marula in the southwest. The farmers expressed deep concern that even as they were working in difficult security conditions caused by the spread of renegade guerrilla violence in the southwest, two of their number continued to be held for reasons the farming community considered arbitrary, the sources said. Zimbabwe's 5,000 white farmers produce 85 per cent of the nation's food and most of its important export crops of tobacco, cotton and maize.

Mr Norman took the message to Mr Mugabe, the sources said, and received a sympathetic hearing. Yesterday, the Yorks' father and Noel York's wife also saw the prime minister, the Yorks' lawyers said.

The release of the brothers was seen by observers as a bitter pill for hard-line Home Affairs Minister Herbert Ushewokunze, who had ordered the Yorks redetained twice after courts had freed them, and as an attempt by Mr Mugabe to bolster the credit of moderate whites like Mr Norman and Mr Andersen. Mr Andersen is the unofficial leader of the nine white members of Parliament who broke away from Ian Smith's Republican Front (RF) in March to cooperate with the black-majority government, which sees the RF -- formerly the Rhodesian Front -- as a racist relic.

The top-level decision on the Yorks will also end what many saw as a destructive confrontation between the executive and the judiciary, during which Mr Ushewokunze told Parliament that the courts were aiding and abetting enemies of the state through their "leniency".